

AP Seminar Summer Assignment

Overview:

It is important that you enter AP Seminar with an understanding of real-world issues that are happening locally, nationally, and globally. These real-world issues help drive your intellectual curiosity and research process throughout the course. In order to expose you to these issues, this summer reading assignment will require you to relate the ideas present in a non-fiction text to something happening in your world today. You will examine the context, credibility, importance, and implications of various ARGUMENTS to practice introductory skills that will be used in the course while also becoming more knowledgeable about relevant issues.

Directions:

Step 1.

Read ONE of the following non-fiction titles. As you read, note aspects throughout the work that you find significant. If you can purchase your own personal copy of these works, make **marginal notes/annotations** throughout. If you are borrowing a book from the library, use sticky notes.

- ***Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner:** A memoir exploring the author's grief, identity, and connection to her Korean heritage.
- ***Educated* by Tara Westover:** An autobiography detailing the author's journey from a survivalist family in rural Idaho to earning a Ph.D. from Cambridge University.
- ***Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser:** An investigative journalist reveals the dark side of the fast-food industry and its impact on health, workers, and society.
- ***The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore:** A narrative contrasting the lives of two men with the same name, highlighting the impact of choices and circumstances.
- ***Outliers* by Michael Gladwell:** An examination of the factors that contribute to high levels of success, challenging the notion of the "self-made" individual.
- ***Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown:** A guide to understanding and navigating complex emotions that shape our lives and relationships.
- ***The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt:** An exploration of the rise of anxiety and depression among young people, analyzing social and cultural influences.
- ***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt:** A true-crime story set in Savannah, Georgia that blends mystery, eccentric characters, and Southern charm.

Step 2.

Answer the attached questions on the second page of this document based on your selected book. Your responses should be detailed in **paragraph format**. Responses should be **typed in MLA Format**. Each question response must include direct textual evidence with a correct MLA style in-text citation.

Important AP Seminar Vocabulary:

1. **Lens:** filter through which an author considers or examines an issue or topic; consider the list below for possible lenses:
 - a. political and historical
 - b. environmental
 - c. economic
 - d. social and cultural
 - e. artistic
 - f. scientific
 - g. futuristic
 - h. ethical
2. **Perspective:** a point of view conveyed through an argument.
3. **Argument:** a claim or thesis that conveys a perspective developed through a line of reasoning and supported by evidence.
4. **Bias:** a personal opinion, belief, or value that may influence one's judgment, perspective, or claim.
5. **Credibility:** the degree to which a source is believable and trustworthy.
6. **Implication:** a possible future effect or result.
7. **Limitation:** a boundary or point at which an argument or generalization is no longer valid.

Registering for this course indicates a commitment on the student's part to follow through with course assignments. A failure to complete summer reading assignments is NOT a valid reason to request a schedule change at the beginning of fall semester.

Use of Lit Charts or Spark Notes or A.I. is not permitted on this assignment. Neither is copying from a friend, sibling, fellow Internet user, etc. When you present someone else's thoughts, ideas, or words as your own, you are plagiarizing. Start out the year determined to improve your own skills and abilities.

AP Seminar Summer Reading - Analytical Questions

Type up your responses to these questions in MLA format. Be sure to also have your annotated text to share with your teacher alongside your typed responses.

1. Who is the author of the book? Discuss the credibility of the author including his or her reputation, credentials, and potential bias.
2. What is the argument presented in the book?
3. What lens from the vocabulary list best describes the filter through which the topic/issue of your book is considered or examined? Explain.
4. Explain the context of the book. For example: Who are the perspectives involved and/or affected? What is the main issue? When and where did the issue occur? Why is it important/relevant?
5. What are the implications of accepting the author's argument as 'true' or 'valid'? How might the world—or even just the life of one reader—shift if the ideas in the book were taken seriously?"
6. Find a reputable and recent news article that is related to the argument presented in your book. Provide a citation of the article with your assignment (you may include a hyperlink with the citation) and write an explanation below exploring the connection between the article and the book.