

AP Seminar Summer Assignment - 2023

I am so excited that you enrolled in the first course of College Board's AP Capstone program! This class will be unlike any class you have taken before, and we are going to have a wonderful experience learning with one another.

What is AP Seminar?

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, you will practice reading and analyzing a variety of texts. You will also learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop your own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to help students develop the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

Summer Assignment

Due Date:

Digital submission instructions will be provided on the first day of school.

Purpose:

The AP Capstone Seminar Summer Assignment is designed to introduce students to the concepts central to the course and to the Capstone program. Much of the work required for the course is centered on questioning and exploring topics and themes. The themes discussed in AP Seminar are possible starting points for further investigation. Because collaboration is so important to this class, we will use the ideas presented in the AP Capstone Seminar Summer Assignment to collaborate and design our first unit. These assignments will also introduce the skills required for successful completion of the required tasks.

The Assignment:

Review the list of possible themes below. Remember these themes are starting points. Choose **two** themes from the list that interest you and **one** theme you create on your own. For each of the **three** themes you choose, conduct preliminary research to understand the complexity of the issue. The research can include articles, academic journals, TED Talks, and other appropriate sources. After completing the preliminary research, create **two** discussion questions on that theme. These should be inspired by your preliminary research. You must include at least one source from your research for each discussion question. Be creative. Again, use the themes as a starting point. I encourage you to explore many facets of the topic. During the first week of class, we will discuss these themes and topics and decide the area of exploration for our first unit.

Possible Themes:

- Communication
- Conformity
- Culture
- Discovery
- Environment
- Evolution
- Food
- Identity
- Innovation
- Language
- Media
- Opportunity
- Perception
- Resilience
- Social Media
- Space
- Technology
- Traditions
- Wealth and poverty
- Work

Sample:**Theme: Education****Discussion Question 1:** Should standardized testing be required for college admissions?**[TED Ed: Should We Get Rid of Standardized Testing?](#)****Discussion Question 2:** How should Artificial Intelligence (AI) be used in schools?**[43 Examples of Artificial Intelligence in Education](#)**

I am looking forward to discussing these ideas with you. We will create our first units together based on the topics that **you** decide are important or interesting, so be thoughtful when deciding on the themes you wish to examine. This project will take an estimated 2-3 hours to complete.

Questions?

Please contact Mr. Rzyski via email: benjamin_rzyski@charleston.k12.sc.us