

# AP Seminar Summer Assignment 2025

Mrs. Musibay

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## DUE: THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

AP Seminar is a class, offered by the College Board, which focuses on investigating real-world issues. You will be gathering and analyzing information from numerous sources in order to:

1. Deconstruct and analyze the arguments made by others AND
2. Create and synthesize their own arguments using proper line of reasoning and strong evidence.

What is unique about AP Seminar is that you, the student, have more control than most other AP courses. There is a great deal of flexibility in choosing topics to analyze and explore.

For your summer assignment, please choose an *interesting, current* topic or issue that needs to be solved (these do not need to be global issues and they should not be controversial) and cultivate a text set of **FOUR** sources on this topic. Each source should provide a **different** perspective on the topic.

### Task:

- A. Select a relevant, current, and noncontroversial topic that lends itself to a solution.
- B. Create your own [Text Set](#) using the attached organizer. (100 point formative assessment) Your text set must include:
  - 2 news articles
    - Articles must be recent (published within the last seven years)
    - Articles must be found on our school databases or through other reputable sites.
    - Be sure to download each article to your google drive and use that link on your text set. (You may also want to save additional source information so you can locate the original source later on, as we will be doing a lot of work with these sources at the beginning of the school year.)
  - 1 TED Talk (complete one Note Sheet - 50 point formative assessment)
    - Use this [link](#) (TED Talk) or this [link](#) (TED-ED)
  - 1 image - This might be a political cartoon, piece of art, or a photograph published in a magazine or newspaper
  - Each source needs to be hyperlinked on the graphic organizer
  - A summary of 100 -200 words (see below for additional requirements)
  - An 500 word explanation of the text set as a (see below for additional requirements)
- C. Complete the [TedTalk Notes Handout](#) (50 point formative assessment)

### Written requirements (to be done on the google document found on classroom):

1. Each text from the set will require a 100 - 200 word summary of the source, including:
  - a. important points,
  - b. an explanation of the argument contained in the source and
  - c. who is making the argument, and
  - d. an explanation of how it connects to at least one of the other sources from the set.
2. You will also need to write a 500 word explanation of the text set, including:

- background information on your chosen topic,
- why you are interested in it,
- why the topic matters, and
- how this issue could potentially be solved.

You are encouraged to use sources from the text set to help support your answers to these questions. It is highly recommended that you do not leave this assignment until the end of the summer, but rather explore resources over the course of the summer break. This is meant to be an enjoyable deep-dive into a topic that you **actually find interesting**, so please take full advantage of the opportunity and figure out what you care about in the world!

**Struggling to find topics of interest?** Check out in-depth reports on topics found in places like NPR, TheWeek, The Economist, the New York Times, and Nature.com, but this list is by no means exhaustive. Look elsewhere, too! Google News also has an excellent “Beyond the Headlines” feature that offers a glimpse of interesting topics that are not headline news. Think about issues that are happening within your community or in areas that interest you - sports/music/film/etc.

Examples of a broad topic/issue are “Homelessness” or “Wealth and Poverty” (which you cannot do since they are the examples).

**Perspectives to consider:**

- Historical/Political
- Artistic/Philosophical
- Social/Cultural
- Ethical
- Environmental
- Scientific/Medical
- Futuristic
- Economic

**Rubric for Text Set**

Component	Hyperlinked? 2 points	Summary 8 points	Score
Topic (10 points)	Is the topic appropriate and lend itself to a potential solution? NO HYPERLINK NEEDED		
Article 1 (10 points)			
Article 2 (10 points)			
TedTalk (10 points)			
Image (10 points)			
	In order to earn full credit the hyperlink must be working.	In order to earn full credit the summary must meet all requirements outlined on the assignment sheet.	<b>/50</b>

## Rubric for Explanation of the Text Set

Criteria	Description	Points
<b>Background Information</b>	Provides thorough background information on the chosen topic, including key concepts, historical context, and relevant terminology. Demonstrates a deep understanding of the subject matter.	<b>/10</b>
<b>Personal Interest</b>	Clearly articulates the student's personal interest in the topic, explaining why it is compelling or relevant to them. Offers personal anecdotes or experiences to support their interest.	<b>/10</b>
<b>Topic Relevance</b>	Evaluates why the chosen topic matters, discussing its significance in the broader context of society, culture, or academic disciplines. Explores implications, consequences, or potential applications of the topic.	<b>/10</b>
<b>Clarity of Writing</b>	Demonstrates clear and concise writing with well-structured paragraphs and transitions between ideas. Avoids jargon or overly complex language that may obscure meaning.	<b>/5</b>
<b>Depth of Analysis</b>	Provides a thorough analysis of the texts included in the text set, highlighting key themes, arguments, or findings. Offers insightful interpretations and connections between texts.	<b>/10</b>
<b>Creativity</b>	Demonstrates creativity in selecting texts for the text set and in presenting ideas. Incorporates diverse perspectives or interdisciplinary approaches.	<b>/5</b>
<b>Total Score</b>		<b>/50</b>

### Comments:

- Background Information (10 points): Did the student provide sufficient background information to contextualize the topic? Were key concepts explained clearly?
- Personal Interest (10 points): Did the student effectively communicate their personal interest in the topic? Did they provide compelling reasons for why they are interested?
- Topic Relevance (10 points): Did the student evaluate why the topic matters? Did they explore its significance beyond surface-level observations?
- Clarity of Writing (5 points): Was the writing clear and easy to follow? Were there any grammatical errors or awkward phrasing?
- Depth of Analysis (10 points): Did the student provide a thorough analysis of the texts? Did they offer insightful interpretations and connections?
- Creativity (5 points): Did the student demonstrate creativity in their selection of texts and presentation of ideas?