

**Contact: Mr. Loughnane at [floughnane@psusd.us](mailto:floughnane@psusd.us)**

**Due: August 12, 2019**

First of all, welcome to the first course in the AP Capstone diploma program!

AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program that provides students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous scholarly practice of the core academic skills necessary for successful college completion.

AP Seminar is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through AP courses. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares students to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

AP Seminar is founded on the QUEST concept:

**Q**uestion and explore

**U**nderstand and analyze arguments

**E**valuate multiple perspectives

**S**ynthesize ideas

**T**eam, transform, and transmit

Through this concept, you will break down topics and issues by viewing them through specific lenses. You will use these lenses to analyze a number of different debates for this assignment, as well as throughout the year. Therefore it is important that you familiarize yourself with these terms.

**The lenses are:** Environmental, Scientific, Economic, Political and Historical, Artistic and Philosophical, Cultural and Social.

To prepare for our studies next year in AP Seminar, the following assignment has been created to give you a glimpse of the types of questions we will ask, research we will conduct, and arguments we will write. You will use the lenses above to complete the assignment below.

### **Part I**

1. Choose a socially-relevant topic that is in the news. (Entertainment “news” (gossip) is not socially relevant!).

Some examples are: college campus rapes, climate change, the upcoming presidential election, alleged racism in police departments and shootings of black men, standardized testing in schools, and the proliferation of violence among extremist groups like ISIS and Al-Shabaab.

2. Find three articles from three different sources. Print and read the articles.

3. Write a reflection in which you address:

- a. Why you chose your topic and why you believe it is socially relevant.
- b. How did you find your sources, and how do you know that your sources are credible and trustworthy?
- c. What you learned about the topic that you didn't know before.
- d. How the topic is being covered in the news. What are the areas of focus?
- e. What final conclusions can you draw about the topic based on your reading?

i. Each reflection must be 250 words minimum - 3 reflections in total.

ii. Each reflection must follow MLA guidelines.

iii. MLA templates will be available for download at

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html)

## **Part II**

1. Go to the website <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate>.

2. The left hand side of the website has the week's featured topics for discussion, labeled "Recent Discussions". You will need to scroll down to see the different topics.

3. Click on a topic title you are interested in, you will see a list of debaters and their essay titles will appear. Click on "Read the Discussion" to access the first article in the grouping.

4. Click on each essay title to read the other essays in the grouping.

5. You must read ALL articles. Be sure to read the entire article, not just the excerpt.

6. Choose two articles that provide different perspectives on a topic that can be attributed to one of the lenses mentioned above. You will do this twice.

E.g. Issue A is a Political/Historical lens and has two articles: one for and one against;  
Issue B has an Environmental lens and has two articles: one for and one against.

7. Print all four of the articles in the discussions. Read and annotate the four articles.

## How to Annotate

### What Not to Do

1. Don't use a fat-tipped highlighter to highlight large amounts of text. You need to write notes about what you read. If you need color, use some color pens.
2. Don't mark large volumes of text; you want important points to stand out. You should only be highlighting about 20% of the text.
3. Don't mark the obvious. Don't waste time marking things you already know.

### What to Do

1. Mark the text with pen, pencil, or colored pens.
2. Underline the topic sentence in a passage, then it will be easier to find the supporting evidence and explanations.
3. Use codes. For example, use question marks for places of disagreement, exclamation points for agreement or a strong statement, triangles to indicate a change in thinking, a star for the topic sentence.
4. Write the passage topic in the margin.
5. Write questions in the margins. When you don't understand something, write the question in the margin, so you can remember to come back to answer it.
6. Circle new and unfamiliar words; look them up as soon as possible. Define them on the article.
7. Add your or other author's perspectives in the margins. Do they agree or disagree?
8. Add cross-reference notes.
9. Draw arrows to related ideas.
10. Summarize. Add your own summary after the last paragraph. It will help clarify your thinking about the subject.