

AP Seminar: Summer 2023 Assignment

Next year, we will investigate three units of study during the first semester: education, food, and crime. As background reading, please select ONE book in preparation for Unit 1 on American Education. Then, answer the four questions below. This assignment is worth your first assessment grade, however it is also the building block of a presentation assignment. When you return to school, you will create and deliver a presentation on the book you read. Therefore, it is important to A) actually read the book you select and B) complete the written assignment with fidelity and to the best of your ability. This is the groundwork for a presentation!

Unit 1: Education

Choose ONE book from the list of three choices below:

- *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got that Way*, Amanda Ripley
- *The Teacher Wars: A History of America's Most Embattled Profession*, Dana Goldstein
- *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*, Jonathan Kozol

After reading the book you select from the list above, complete the following assignment:

1. **Research the author.** Address in no more than 150 words relevant information about the author's background and credibility in producing their book.
2. **What perspective on the overall unit topic does this source address?** Choose ONE perspective from the list below. Then explain how the book encompasses that perspective in no more than 300 words total. Utilize 2 short quotes (5-8 words long) from throughout the book to support the perspective you choose.
 - Cultural/Social
 - Artistic/Philosophical
 - Ethical
 - Political/Historical
 - Scientific
 - Environmental
 - Economic
3. **What is the author's overall argument in this book?** Explain their argument completely yet concisely in no more than 100 words.
4. **How did this book enhance your understanding of the overall unit topic?** Answer in no more than 300 words. Consider questions like:
 - What did you already know about the unit topic? What new information did this book contribute to your prior understanding?
 - What information in the book surprised you or stood out to you?
 - What questions do you have after reading this book? What else do you want to learn?

Your assignment should be typed in a Microsoft Word document and emailed to youngm4@scsk12.org. Please follow the formatting guidelines listed below. There is also an example assignment, which will help you adhere to the formatting guidelines. This assignment is due to my email by **11:59 pm on 8/11, the first Friday** of the week we return to school.

- Title your document: FirstName.LastName.APSeminar.SummerAssignment
- Save your document as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf when you are finished. If I cannot open the attachment, it gets a zero.
- The document should be 1.5 spaced, size 12 font, in Times New Roman or Calibri, with standard 1 inch margins.
- The heading should include your name, the date, and the class name and “Summer Assignment” and should be justified to the left.
- Type the title and author and then answer the questions below the title and author
- Answer each question within the given word limit. Include the word limit beneath each question you answer.
- See the attached example to format your work properly.

Additional Information:

OPTIONAL: For your own knowledge and preparation, I am also including the books we will read for the subsequent two units. Before Units 2 & 3, you will also have to read a book, selected from the list below, and present your takeaways to the class. Therefore, over the summer, you may want to get a head start on ONE reading from EACH of the two units below. AP Seminar is a reading and writing intensive course, so it would be to your benefit to select and read the books below over the summer. Nevertheless, it is not required and reading the selections below will be built into the semester schedule.

Unit 2: Food

Choose ONE book from the list of three choices below:

- *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of an All-American Meal*, Eric Schlosser
- *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*, Jessica B. Harris
- *Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food*, Jennifer 8. Lee

Unit 3: Crime

Choose ONE book from the list of three choices below:

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, Michelle Alexander
- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, David Grann
- *Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets*, Sudhir Venkatesh

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