

**Summer Assignment**  
**AP Seminar**  
**Mr. Hurtig and Mr. Nelson**

Congratulations on registering for the AP Capstone program; we think you'll find your time here engaging, challenging, and ultimately rewarding. But before you join us at the beginning of the next school year, there are a few things you're going to need to accomplish:

Select a book from the AP Seminar Summer Reading List and read it over the course of the summer. While you read, create a detailed reading log in which you:

1. Summarize the main elements of the book:
  - a) Its focus/topic
  - b) Its arguments/purpose (either explicit and/or implicit)
  - c) Its evidence (of any type) that it uses to support its arguments/purpose
  - d) Its use of persuasive appeals, and how they serve its argument
2. Analyze the effectiveness of the author's argument. Consider:
  - a) Use of evidence in support of its arguments/purpose
  - b) Use of persuasive appeals in service of its argument
  - c) How important or valuable the author's arguments/purpose is to the world at large, or to groups of people in the world at large

You'll note that all of the books on this list are nonfiction books in which the authors either explore personal stories that connect to larger issues in the world, or are specifically about those issues themselves, drawing on research and interviews with a variety of subjects.

As well as the information that's available on the provided book like, you can find more information provided on the CHS Library website, attached to the AP Summer Assignments page. I also recommend researching the books on Amazon or Goodreads.com to figure out which one might be a good fit for you. I encourage you to be adventurous; many of these options may not seem automatically gripping, but you would be shocked at the wide-ranging issues covered in a book such as, say, *Fast Food Nation*.

Your reading journals can be written by hand or typed and brought in on printed pages. As the books range in style of delivery and length, there's no set length for your reading journals, but your entries should be frequent (done as you read, every time you read from your book), thorough (covering the entire breadth of the book, not just the beginning and end), and detailed (shouldn't be interchangeable with, say, a Wikipedia or Sparknotes page on the book). They should also be personalized - in addition to covering the material presented above, feel free to interact with the text however you wish: jokes, questions, observations, connections to other issues in the world or in your own life. If you read something that makes you angry, write about it! If you read something that makes you curious about other issues, explore that as well. If our library doesn't have a copy of a book you wanted available, check the local public library, or, if able, buy your own copy.

It is vital that students understand that AP Seminar will require you to be focused, engaged, and self-sufficient throughout the year if you wish to succeed. Additionally, you'll be responsible for creating a presentation on your summer reading within the first full week of the school year. No trait will be more valuable than a genuine and consistent work-ethic. While it's fine to feel daunted by the scope of the task you're being asked to accomplish, if you feel overwhelmed, or that the scope of this task is unfair, you should *not* be taking AP Seminar.

We look so forward to meeting you and working with you next year. It's going to be a good one.

Thanks, and take care.  
Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hurtig