

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

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:

1. 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:
  - a) Summarize the main elements of the book:
    - i) Its focus/topic
    - ii) Its arguments/purpose (either explicit and/or implicit)
    - iii) Its evidence (of any type) that it uses to support its arguments/purpose
    - iv) Its use of persuasive appeals, and how they serve its argument
  - b) Analyze the effectiveness of the author's:
    - i) Use of evidence in support of its arguments/purpose
    - ii) Use of persuasive appeals in service of its argument
    - iii) 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.

2. AP Seminar is a class about identifying, analyzing, and presenting solutions to complex, real-world problems. As such, it will be useful for you to actually have a sense of what is going on in the world before you walk in the door.

The NY Times is a major American newspaper with credible and accessible reporting on a variety of topics. Each week, you should select two articles from it to read and summarize. Keep these notes in a journal, and make sure you:

- a. Write down the name of the author
- b. The date of publication
- c. The subcategory in which you found the article (Politics, Tech, Business, Art, etc.)
- d. Summarize the article, including:
  - i. Major points/elements in the article
  - ii. Any thoughts you have on the article
  - iii. Any other issues in play around the world you're aware of to which this article connects

Move around through different subcategories every time you read, and don't just focus in one area, but be sure to include some readings from the US, World, Politics, Business, Science, and Tech sections.

NOTE: The NYT has a "paywall" which limits you to 10 free articles a month, for each device you're reading with. That's enough to collect your sixteen articles (again, that's two per week for eight weeks throughout your summer) over two months, so long as you're careful about what you read; scan through the paper for a while, going from section to section, until you make your choices each time. HOWEVER: every Cascade student has access to the entire NYT, for free, if they so choose! Go to the Cascade Library home page, and you'll find a link to how to sign up for the free account on the right side of the page. Signing up requires the use of a personal email address, so only do this if you choose to do so. It's worth noting that you could use your school "Google" account, which is a masked-email address, to make your account, but if you forgot the password you choose to use, you wouldn't be able to get access again. Still, that's a good option if you need.

We know that not everyone has equal access to internet access at home: you could go to your local library, or read a physical copy of the paper at home if your family gets one (just focus on events across the country and world as opposed to only what's happening here at home). The Cascade library will also be open for a few days out of the summer, and you could come in then. In those instances, we'll be happy to make accommodations when it comes to the number of articles collected, and the dates on which they are collected. Just reach out to us and let us know.

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. 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