

AP Capstone Seminar Summer Reading Assignment

To prepare you for the concepts, skills, and workload required for success in AP Seminar, you will complete an assignment that includes reading the nonfiction book *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown (available for checkout from the Everett High library) and the chapter-by-chapter reading journal described below.

Your reading and accompanying journal should be completed by *the first day of school*. Bring the book and reading journal with you to class and be prepared to discuss the book and your analysis both verbally and in writing. Contact me with questions: jpitharoulis@everettsd.org.

Reading Journal Instructions

1. Divide your journal into the **three sections** listed below. Note the middle section, “Informational Focuses,” includes five sub-sections: make this section bigger (make sure to label each subsection within “Informational Focuses.”)
2. As you read, follow the below instructions to complete your journal in order to understand, connect to, and begin to analyze the text and its ideas.
 - I. **Chapter Summaries:** For each chapter, write a 2-3 sentence summary of the events, information, or main ideas.
 - II. **Informational Focuses:** Although this book provides an inspiring story about the hard work and dreams of a group of young men, it is also an extensively researched compendium of information. As you read, note information/types of information that the author provides about the below subtopics. Include the chapter number for each (see back of this page for examples).
 - a. The Sport of Rowing
 - b. Culture and Society
 - c. Historical People and Events
 - d. Geography
 - e. Local Connections (to Seattle and the Puget Sound)
 - III. **Follow-Up Questions:** Consider the five subtopics from Section II. Which would you like to know more about? Choose **two** of the subtopics and write **three** follow-up questions that you could research to find answers to or more information about. (We will research these as a class in the fall.)

Examples of “Informational Focuses” Entries (from *To Kill a Mockingbird*)

Focus: The Finch Family

- Simon Finch, an apothecary, emigrated from England, bought slaves and established a homestead that Scout and her family still live on. (Chapter 1)
- Atticus’s younger brother, John, is 10 years younger than Atticus and a doctor. (Chapter 1)
- Cousin Ike Finch is “Maycomb’s County’s sole surviving Confederate veteran” and likes to talk about the war and the Missouri Compromise. (Chapter 9)

Examples of “Follow-Up Questions”

- How many African Americans were murdered in hate crimes during the first half of the 1900s?
- What are the statistics of court cases brought against African Americans during the 1900s versus current statistics of court cases brought against African Americans during the past decade?