



Welcome to AP Seminar, “a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives” (College Board). What does this mean for you as a student? How is this different from other AP Courses? The answer: a challenging, yet gratifying, year of critical thinking, analysis, research, and collaboration that will help you gain confidence with your own voice in writing and speaking. You will look at other author’s arguments through a variety of perspectives and then will examine real-world issues and develop and defend your own credible arguments, both individually and collaboratively.

For your summer reading assignments this year, the first is to read *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Daubner. “With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally – to think, that is, like a freak” (Harper Collins). The second assignment is to watch all three Tedtalks and score each TEDtalk.

Task 1: *Think Like a Freak*

- Read the text and paraphrase, in your own words, three interesting points from each chapter. I will collect your text the first day of class and will give it back to you within that first week of class.

Task 2: TEDTalks

- Watch the three TEDTalks below and score each presenter using the AP Seminar Rubric. Please click [here](#) for the rubric. I will have you submit your score sheets the first day of class.

The Power of Vulnerability

| Brené Brown • TEDxHouston

https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance

| Angela Lee Duckworth • TED Talks Education

https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

How To Escape Education's Death Valley

| Sir Ken Robinson • TED Talks Education

https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_how_to_escape_education_s_death_valley?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

If you have any questions, you can reach me, Mr. T.Pham @ tpham@eriesd.org .

NOTE: The summer reading/writing assignments will affect your academic grade. It is essential that you complete the summer reading assignments. Be prepared to discuss ALL assigned writings/projects the first day of school.