

AP Seminar Summer Suggestions

Ms Pronko and Dr. Neubert, 2023-2024

We are so excited that you have decided to take the plunge and try out this AP course! We hope the experience will be rewarding and enriching for all of us. In order to hit the ground running next fall, we would like you to take a little time over the summer to do some reflecting and some research. By becoming familiar with new subjects, search tools, organizational strategies, and informational sites, you will come in with the background knowledge to feel comfortable and excited to start the school year. Please do not write up formal responses. Some informal notes for yourself will do. It is important that you take a summer break!

A. Writing an argument based on sources

We will start by looking at the end point. Set a timer and write the attached assignment in no more than 2 hours, including reading, planning, and writing. When you cite one of the sources, you can simply label it (Source A), for example. *Be prepared to submit both a hard and digital copy. This should be 1 ½-2 pages. This is not for a grade, but for us to get a feel for our starting point.*

B. Reflecting on you as a learner

Consider the following and write some *notes for yourself*. We will use these themes throughout the year. It will be good to have recorded a starting point. *Bring these notes to class.*

1. What are you really interested in studying? Why?
2. What makes you a good teammate?
3. Where do you go to learn more about a topic you are curious about?
4. How do you handle frustration and/or stress when it sets in?
5. In the information age, how and where can we find consistently reliable information?
6. What tools do you use to stay organized? Which of your systems could use some improvement?
7. What tools/techniques would you use to grapple with a long-term project in terms of time management?

C. Exploring potential research topics and current issues

1. Log onto the WHS library website. Bookmark the page; enter and save the passwords to the databases. See information below.
2. Take some time to look into three of the resources listed:
Ebsco, Galenet, and SIRS
3. What do you observe about the three databases? What can you find in each? What extra features do they contain?
Make a list (bullets are fine) of your observations.
OR Make a table comparing what you observe in each.
4. Search a few specific topics you are interested in. Can you draw any conclusions about key words or search terms? Try out the “send to Google drive,” “annotate pdf” and “citation features for at least two sources. *Record your observations and questions.*
5. Locate three publications (like newspapers or magazines) you value and be ready to let us know (informally) who their readers are, what subjects they cover, and the style they use in writing and layout. It will be best to find these valuable publications by mid-August, so you have time to read some articles of interest as they occur in the news cycle. Again, this is for your personal growth/ orientation/ enrichment. *You do NOT need to create a formal write up. Be ready to share your thoughts.*

Make sure you take time to read, relax, and enjoy yourself. We will be excited to hear your reflections and discoveries when we start up in late August.

ONLINE RESEARCH DATABASES

For home access to our reference databases, library catalog and websites, [connect to Sharepoint—Destiny WSD Library](#)

CREDO REFERENCE

Username: wick

Password: library11

EBSCO

Username: wisshs

Password: trojans#1

FACT CITE

Username: whs

Password: whs

GALENET

Library ID: wisstrojans

MACKIN E-BOOKS & AUDIOBOOKS

Use your WSD log in and choose
Wissahickon HS Library

POWER LIBRARY

Link to site via

Wissahickon Valley Public Library

<http://wvpl.org>

Use your public library card number for access

SIRS/PRO-QUEST

Username: PL3041H

Password: 19002

WORLD BOOK ONLINE

Username: wiss02

Password: wsd02

Other sites worth bookmarking

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL).
Purdue University.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> -- This has great information on *MLA & APA Formatting & Style Guides*, as well as on *Avoiding Plagiarism*.

· *KnightCite*. Calvin College.

<http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> - This is a great reference for *MLA, APA, and Chicago Manual of Style* citations.

You might want to investigate software tools that are handy – for organizing, for taking notes, for making slides, for creating tables, etc.

How to make cool slides:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11MTsjdHBqaxIa3Ix69r1As9jIF3fasbyTOovyhmn4fs/edit?usp=sharing>

