

# AP Seminar Summer Suggestions

Ms Pronko, 2020-2021

I am so excited that you have decided to take the plunge and try out this new but improved WHS course! I hope the experience will be rewarding and enriching for all of us. In order to hit the ground running next fall, I 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. 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.

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?

## B. 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. I do NOT want a formal write up.

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

## ONLINE RESEARCH DATABASES

Connect to Sharepoint—Destiny WSD  
Library for home access to our  
reference databases, library catalog  
and websites

### 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

· *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.