

AP Seminar, Summer Reading 2023-24

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Welcome to AP Seminar! I am so very excited that you have chosen the AP Seminar course—it is a powerful course that will change the way that you think about writing and research (in a good way!). The task that follows will give you a taste of the ideas and concepts that we will be discussing this year, and to that end, I look forward to seeing what you come up with! We are going to have a GREAT year!

Overview: During our 3rd class meeting, you will deliver a short presentation to the class exploring a specific issue and its associated problems based upon the work you complete for your summer reading assignment—a news journal which includes five (5) entries focused on your selected theme. The steps for this assignment are as follows:

Step 1: Select a focus theme

For nearly the whole of our year, we will be exploring a variety of themes. Examine the short list that follows, and select one (1) of the themes that interests you most. You will use the same theme for the whole of the assignment.

- Belief (religious)
- Education
- Environment
- Food
- Health
- Media
- Power
- Sustainability
- Technology
- Wealth/Poverty
- Work/Leisure

Step 2: Follow the news

On a regular basis over the summer, read up on current events directly related to your theme (selected in the previous step) using the specific sources/news outlets listed below. –General web searches for the topic/theme are not acceptable for this assignment—you must use the specified outlets.

Specific News Outlets & Links, for each:

Journal Entry 1	Reuters: https://www.reuters.com/	OR	Associated Press: https://apnews.com/
Journal Entry 2	The BBC: https://www.bbc.com/	OR	The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/international
Journal Entry 3	The Wall Street Journal: https://www.wsj.com/	OR	The New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/
Journal Entry 4	The New York Post: https://nypost.com/	OR	NPR (National Public Radio) https://www.npr.org/
Journal Entry 5	The Pew Research Center: https://www.pewresearch.org/		

Step 3: Construct your News Journal

Report on your sources as you consult them during your reading—each journal entry will include the following information (see attached sample entry):

1. MLA Citation for source: [Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Source. Title of Website. Publisher. Publication Date. Location.]
2. A brief summary of the article in 3-5 sentences. It must be in your own words.
3. What problems or sub-issues does the article delve into and explore in relation to the theme? State these as debatable questions.
4. Which lens (filter) does the article explore the topic through? (Lenses include: political/historical, environmental, economic, social/cultural, artistic, scientific, futuristic, ethical)
5. What questions does the article raise (but does not answer) in relation to the theme or issue?

Journal Sample Entry

Selected Theme: Education

Entry #1:

Mervosh, Sarah, and Dana Goldstein. "Florida Rejects Dozens of Social Studies Textbooks, and Forces Changes in Others." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 9 May 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/05/09/us/desantis-florida-social-studies-textbooks.html?searchResultPosition=5.

Florida has rejected a huge number of social studies textbooks saying that they did not meet the "Stop W.O.K.E. Act", a that law prohibits teaching that would make students to feel guilt or anguish for what other members of their race did in the past signed by Governor DeSantis last year. This has led to many huge textbook companies revising the books to leave out some concepts, like the Black Lives Matter movement, and the impact of protests after the George Floyd killing. Many believe that this will have a big impact on how history is taught in Florida and beyond. One historian of education noted that publishers in the last century have frequently revised textbooks based on political concerns which most often come from conservative politicians.

Problems/sub-issues: Should the government be able to censor historical ideas in education? When are specific historical events appropriate to teach to students?

Lenses: political/historical lens & ethical lens

Questions raised: How does the way that Florida teaches history compare to that in other states? What impact will this have on Florida students when going to college?

Step 4:

Have your NEWS JOURNAL ready by the third (3rd) class meeting—you will present your NEWS JOURNAL to your peers in a short graded presentation. More specific guidelines will be provided in class.

Should you have any questions as you engage with this task, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Cicoria at ccicoria@asparis.fr.

