

AP Seminar Summer Assignments



We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of you to AP Seminar for the 2023-2024 school year! As a sophomore, you will embark upon a unique personal and academic experience -- AP Seminar will challenge you to work harder than ever before, but the skills and friendships you will gain, as a result, will be significantly rewarding. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kennedy-Medina & Michael O'Brien
AP Seminar Teachers
South High School

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Please Note: Throughout the year, we will utilize Microsoft Teams to stay in touch and provide important reminders about class deadlines. Feel free to reach out to us via Teams Chat or via e-mail should you have any questions or concerns across the summer vacation.

Summer Reading Tasks:

	<p><i>You will be required to read the following text:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Freakonomics</u>, Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt <p><i>You must select an additional text from the list below**:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Outliers</u>, Malcolm Gladwell- <u>The Gatekeepers</u>, Jacques Steinberg- <u>The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through The Madness Industry</u>, Jon Ronson- <u>Daring Greatly</u>, Brene Brown- <u>Salt</u>, Mark Kurlansky <p><i>** We encourage you to choose any other nonfiction, sociological text that focuses on an area of personal interest. If you want to make your own selection, please send the title and author to Mrs. Kennedy-Medina & Mr. O'Brien for approval.</i></p> <p>Be sure to annotate as you read for the ideas, arguments, and evidence that stand out to you. Annotations are to be kept for future use with research projects and papers throughout the year. Tips for annotation are</p>
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	<p>included in this packet under “Twelve Ways To Mark Up A Book.” Focus on annotating for the <i>ideas</i> that are presented - not merely summarizing chapters.</p>
<p>Writing & Performance</p>	<p>You will be developing a mini presentation, designed to teach your classmates about an area of interest. You should consider where your passions and academic areas of inquiry lie. Consider the following: <i>If you could research any sociological topic in the world today, where would you begin?</i> You may want to consider a review of major news outlets for current events, happening both nationally and globally, in order to identify your topic of interest.</p> <p>You must develop a three slide presentation that outlines the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Slide 1 → An overview of the issue, including historical context (i.e. What has happened surrounding this issue in the past? Provide as much background information as possible.)● Slide 2 → A potential solution to solve the problem, either derived from your research or from your own thinking.● Slide 3 → The limitations (Potential issues or obstacles) and/or implications (How would society need to change?) of the proposed solution. <p><i>* Please remember that any outside sources used must be included in a Works Cited or Bibliography slide at the end of your presentation. *</i></p>

Twelve Ways To Mark Up A Book

by Bert Webb

Adapted from

<http://www.woostercityschools.org/sites/woostercityschools.org/files/files/AP%20Seminar%20Supplement-Twelve%20Ways%20to%20Mark%20a%20Book.pdf>

Books are a fantastic way to gain knowledge. With books, one can learn new techniques, gain new skills, and learn from role models who have been to where one wants to be and can show the way. There are many different ways to read books and just as many ways to remember their salient points. One of the most effective ways to get the most out of a book is to mark it up. There is no standard way to mark up a text, but below are a few ways that students have found effective in marking up a textbook so that one can see the important points quickly, make it more memorable, and make it easy to pick up years later and re-acquaint oneself with the major concepts.

What Not To Do

- **Don't use a highlighter** – Quality marking isn't done with a fat-tipped highlighter. You can't write, which is an important part of marking the text, with a large marker. Get yourself some fine point colored pens to do the job.
- **Don't mark large volumes of text** – You want important points to stand out. Although we all know that everything can't be important, we often highlight all of the text on the page. You want to find the 20% of the text that is important and mark that.
- **Don't take the time to mark up items that you read on a daily basis** – (e.g., magazines, newspapers), unimportant or irrelevant items.
- **Don't mark the obvious** – Don't waste time marking up things that are already in your knowledge-base or skill set. If you already know it, you don't need to mark it.

What To Do

- **Mark the text with a pencil, pen, or, even better, colored fine-tipped pens** – Remember, you are not highlighting, you are writing.
- **Know your preferences** – Some of you have an aversion to mark directly in the text. Books are precious things to many people and they want to protect them from damage and even the wear and tear of everyday use. If this describes you, grab some Post-It brand notes and do your marking and writing on them. This also gives you the advantage to move and reorganize them should you see fit.
- **Underline the topic sentence in a passage** – Remember, each paragraph has one topic sentence. The rest is supporting information and examples. Identify the topic sentence to find it easier.

- **Use codes** – Flag text with codes (e.g., Question marks to indicate disagreement, Exclamation marks to note agreement or to flag a strong statement, triangles to indicate a change in thinking, or a star for the topic sentence).
- **Write the passage topic in the margin as a reminder** – Just a word or two.
- **Write questions in the margin** – When you don't understand something or when you don't understand the author's thought process on a particular topic, write the question in the margin as a reminder to settle the question.
- **Circle new and unfamiliar words** – Look them up as soon as possible.
- **Add your or other author's perspectives in the margins** – Other authors have surely written on the same subject. What do they say? Do they agree with this author? If not, what do they say? Add these ideas in the margins.
- **Add cross-reference notes to other works on the same topic** – Use the author's name and a shortened version of the other book's title.
- **Add structure to a narrative text** – Use 1, 2, 3, 4...or an outline format I. A. B. C. 1, 2, 3, a, b, c...to add a structure that you understand.
- **Draw arrows to related ideas** – Or unrelated ideas...
- **Summarize** – Add your own summary after the last paragraph. That simple exercise will crystalize your thinking on the topic. If you can't write it, you don't understand it.

Extras

Post-It Brand Notes are great ways to also mark locations within books, much like bookmarks do. With Post-It Brand Notes, however, you can mark on them so you can see where you are turning before you start flipping through the pages. One can also use colored paper clips to identify pages or chapters that are important.

Conclusion

The idea is to enter, by way of your markings, into a conversation with the author so that his knowledge is added to yours so that a synthesis occurs and you gain a new understanding. A new — or new looking — book is a treasure. Don't be afraid to mark up the books that you love.