

AP Seminar Summer Assignments

2025-2026

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. Other than Part A, please do not write up formal responses for Parts B and C. Some informal notes will do. It is important that you take a summer break!

A. Writing an argument based on sources

We will start by looking at one of the end points. Using the sources starting on page 3, set a timer and write the attached assignment in no more than 1.5 hours, including reading, planning, and writing. When you cite one of the sources, you can simply label it (Source A, B, C, or D). ***Please come to class on the first day prepared to submit both a hard copy and a digital copy. This should be no more than 1 ½-2 pages. This will receive a completion grade, rather than for accuracy, as it serves as a point of reference for your writing at the start of the year. Given the College Board's policy on plagiarism and falsification, this will also be your first written assignment run through both Turnitin and AI detectors to demonstrate the authenticity of your work.***

B. Reflecting on you as a learner

Consider the following and write some *notes for yourself*. We will be discussing these themes throughout the year. It will be good to have a record as a starting point for yourself. *Bring these notes to class to refer to them during our conversations.*

1. What topics are you really interested in studying? Why?
2. Where do you go to learn more about a topic you are curious about?
3. In the information age, how and where can we find consistently reliable information?
4. What role do you feel AI plays in the research process? Is it a “reliable” tool?
5. What makes you a good teammate? What qualities do you want in a teammate?
6. How do you handle frustration and/or stress when it sets in?
7. What tools do you use to stay organized? Which of your “systems” could use some improvement?
8. 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. You should no longer need passwords to access the databases as long as you log in with your WSD username and password.
2. Take some time to look through the learning resources listed: EBSCO, GALE, JSTOR and SIRS
3. Choose one or more of the databases to find three academic, **peer-reviewed** sources that you feel provide you with valuable information on a topic(s) of interest. These sources should be full text, recent (published within the last five years), and something you can download or save as a PDF.
4. They do not need to be three of the same kind of source. For example, if you have one source that is a study, your other two sources could come from academic journals.
5. Please take note of the following: What do you notice about the “academic tone” the authors write in? How do authors give credibility to the sources they use? What kind of citations are used? How is the piece organized? Anything else that catches your eye?
6. Please be ready to upload at least one document to Schoology and be prepared to “speak to” your source in front of the class. Again, you do not need to prepare a formal write up, but notes for yourself may be helpful.

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.

Important Information and Things to Note:

AP Capstone Policies:

AP Seminar is one of the components of the AP Capstone Certificate and Diploma Program you will learn more about. There are various policies that College Board wants to ensure you are familiar with, so use the following link and the section titles below to help you get a leg up on three important policies that will be thoroughly discussed at the start of the school year-

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/resources/ap-capstone-policies>

1. Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information
2. AP Capstone Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)
3. AP Program Use of Turnitin

Citing in Seminar:

We do not spend time in AP Seminar going over citation formatting in depth, so it is going to be your responsibility to familiarize yourself with that.

There are various resources beyond the ones suggested below, that can help you understand what citations are expected to look like parenthetically in text and in a Works Cited/Reference page at the end of your written works.

The College Board expectation is that you understand how to format a citation on your own, although many resources, such as EBSCO, may generate citations for you. Please refrain from using/relying on citation generators like EasyBib. We will discuss this further in the fall as to the “pitfalls” of such resources.

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.

Keeping Yourself Organized:

Organization and time management are of utmost importance. A large part of your success in the course is dependent upon meeting deadlines, so having a system in place from the start is going to be helpful for working in a group as well as independently.

There are a variety of software tools that you can investigate—for organization, note taking, maintaining a calendar—that are available on your school computer that we will review at the start of the year to provide you with options right at your fingertips. It will be your job to hold yourself accountable (and not procrastinate!) to maintain the efficiency of the systems you set up at the start.

Presenting:

We will be presenting A LOT in Seminar to get you ready for the two College Board presentations you have once we begin the Performance Tasks (more to come on that once we get started!).

Since everyone wants a “pretty presentation,” here are some resources:

How to make cool slides:

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

Additional Slide Sites:

- Canva.com
- Slidesgo.com
- Slidescarnival.com

A. Writing an argument based on sources

Directions: Read the **four** sources carefully, focusing on a **theme or issue** that connects them and the different perspective each represents. Then, write a logically organized, well-reasoned, and well-written **argument** that presents your own **perspective on the theme or issue** you identified. You must incorporate **at least two of the sources** provided and link the claims in your argument to supporting evidence. You may also use the other provided sources or draw upon your own knowledge. In your response, refer to the provided sources as Source A, Source B, Source C, or Source D, or by the author's name.

Source A

Excerpted from the speech "All Labor Has Dignity" By Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I came in tonight, I turned around and said to Ralph Abernathy, "They really have a great movement here in Memphis." You are demonstrating something here that needs to be demonstrated all over our country. You are demonstrating that we can stick together and you are demonstrating that we are all tied in a single garment of destiny, and that if one black person suffers, if one black person is down, we are all down. I've always said that if we are to solve the tremendous problems that we face we are going to have to unite beyond the religious line, and I'm so happy to know that you have done that in this movement in a supportive role. We have Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, members of the Church of God in Christ, and members of the Church of Christ in God, we are all together, and all of the other denominations and religious bodies that I have not mentioned.

But there is another great need, and that is to unite beyond class lines. The Negro "haves" must join hands with the Negro "have-nots." And armed with compassionate traveler checks, they must journey into that other country of their brother's denial and hurt and exploitation. This is what you have done. You've revealed here that you recognize that the no D is as significant as the PhD, and the man who has been to no-house is as significant as the man who has been to Morehouse. And I just want to commend you.

It's been a long time since I've been in a situation like this and this lets me know that we are ready for action. So I come to commend you and I come also to say to you that in this struggle you have the absolute support, and that means financial support also, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

You are doing many things here in this struggle. You are demanding that this city will respect the dignity of labor. So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight, that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity, and it has worth. One day our society must come to see this. One day our society will come to respect the sanitation worker if it is to survive, for the person who picks up our garbage, in the final analysis, is as significant as the physician, for if he doesn't do his job, diseases are rampant. All labor has dignity.

But you are doing another thing. You are reminding, not only Memphis, but you are reminding the nation that it is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages. And I need not remind you that this is our plight as a people all over America. The vast majority of Negroes in our

country are still perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. My friends, we are living as a people in a literal depression. Now you know when there is mass unemployment and underemployment in the black community they call it a social problem. When there is mass unemployment and underemployment in the white community they call it a depression. But we find ourselves living in a literal depression, all over this country as a people.

Now the problem is not only unemployment. Do you know that most of the poor people in our country are working every day? And they are making wages so low that they cannot begin to function in the mainstream of the economic life of our nation. These are facts which must be seen, and it is criminal to have people working on a full-time basis and a full-time job getting part-time income. You are here tonight to demand that Memphis will do something about the conditions that our brothers face as they work day in and day out for the well-being of the total community. You are here to demand that Memphis will see the poor.

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And I come by here to say that America, too, is going to hell if she doesn't use her wealth. If America does not use her vast resources of wealth to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life, she, too, will go to hell. And I will hear America through her historians, years and generations to come, saying, "We built gigantic buildings to kiss the skies. We built gargantuan bridges to span the seas. Through our spaceships we were able to carve highways through the stratosphere. Through our airplanes we are able to dwarf distance and place time in chains. Through our submarines we were able to penetrate oceanic depths."

It seems that I can hear the God of the universe saying, "Even though you have done all of that, I was hungry and you fed me not, I was naked and you clothed me not. The children of my sons and daughters were in need of economic security and you didn't provide it for them. And so you cannot enter the kingdom of greatness." This may well be the indictment on America. And that same voice says in Memphis to the mayor, to the power structure, "If you do it unto the least of these of my children you do it unto me."

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With Selma and the voting rights bill one era of our struggle came to a close and a new era came into being. Now our struggle is for genuine equality, which means economic equality. For we know now that it isn't enough to integrate lunch counters. What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee? What does it profit a man to be able to eat at the swankiest integrated restaurant when he doesn't earn enough money to take his wife out to dine? What does it profit one to have access to the hotels of our city and the motels of our highway when we don't earn enough money to take our family on a vacation? What does it profit one to be able to attend an integrated school when he doesn't earn enough money to buy his children school clothes?

And so we assemble here tonight, and you have assembled for more than thirty days now to say, "We are tired. We are tired of being at the bottom. We are tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression. We are tired of our children having to attend overcrowded, inferior, quality-less schools. We are tired of having to live in dilapidated substandard housing conditions where we don't have wall-to-wall carpets but so often we end up with wall-to-wall rats and roaches. We are tired of smothering in an

airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society. We are tired of walking the streets in search for jobs that do not exist. We are tired of working our hands off and laboring every day and not even making a wage adequate to get the basic necessities of life. We are tired of our men being emasculated so that our wives and our daughters have to go out and work in the white lady's kitchen, leaving us unable to be with our children and give them the time and the attention that they need. We are tired."

And so in Memphis we have begun. We are saying, "*Now is the time.*" Get the word across to everybody in power in this time in this town that now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to make an adequate income a reality for all of God's children. Now is the time for city hall to take a position for that which is just and honest. Now is the time for justice to roll down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. *Now is the time.*

Now let me say a word to those of you who are on strike. You have been out now for a number of days, but don't despair. Nothing worthwhile is gained without sacrifice. The thing for you to do is stay together, and say to everybody in this community that you are going to stick it out to the end until every demand is met, and that you are gonna say, "We ain't gonna let nobody turn us around." Let it be known everywhere that along with wages and all of the other securities that you are struggling for, you are also struggling for the right to organize and be recognized.

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Now the other thing is that nothing is gained without pressure. Don't let anybody tell you to go back on the job and paternalistically say, "Now, you are my men and I'm going to do the right thing for you. Just come on back on the job." Don't go back on the job until the demands are met. Never forget that freedom is not something that is voluntarily given by the oppressor. It is something that must be demanded by the oppressed. Freedom is not some lavish dish that the power structure and the white forces in policy-making positions will voluntarily hand out on a silver platter while the Negro merely furnishes the appetite. If we are going to get equality, if we are going to get adequate wages, we are going to have to struggle for it.

## Source B

Excerpted from Nguyen, Terry. "Gen Z Does Not Dream of Labor." *Vox*, 22 Apr. 2022.

Over the past two years, young millennials and members of Gen Z have created an abundance of memes and pithy commentary about their generational disillusionment toward work...

Many have taken to declaring how they don't have dream jobs since they "don't dream of labor." This buzzy phrase, popularized on social media in the pandemic, rejects work as a basis for identity, framing it instead as an act to pursue out of financial necessity....

Today's young people are not the first to experience economic hardship, but they are the first to broadcast their struggles in ways that, just a decade ago, might alienate potential employers or be deemed too radical....

Business Insider recently cited data claiming that emboldened Gen Z workers were more "likely to change jobs more often than any other generation," and a recent Bloomberg poll found that millennials, followed by zoomers are the most likely to leave their current position for a higher salary....

While it's certainly easy to group workers by age [when tracking trends in attitudes and behavior], more emphasis should be placed on when people enter the workforce, the coinciding state of the economy, and the various safety net programs in place, said Sarah Damaske, an associate professor of sociology and labor and employment relations at Penn State University.

"It's not necessarily that different generations hold different attitudes about work," Damaske argued. "For millennials and for some members of Gen Z, they've witnessed two recessions, back-to-back. This is a very different labor market experience than what their parents and grandparents encountered."

Many zoomers<sup>1</sup> entered the workforce during the pandemic-affected economy, amid years of stagnant wages and, more recently, rising inflation. "My dad got a job straight out of high school, saved up, and bought a house in his 20s," said Anne Dakota, a 21-year-old receptionist from Asheville, North Carolina, who earns minimum wage. "I don't even think that's possible for me, at least with the current money I make."

Naturally, this has major consequences for social attitudes about work....

"I think people are realizing that we just want better for ourselves," said Jade Carson, 22, a content creator who shares career advice for Gen Z. "I want to be in a role where I can grow.... I don't want to be stressed, depressed, or always waiting to clock out."...

While younger workers have developed a reputation for "job hopping," Damaske believes employers are also to blame. "We really have seen an erosion in the employer-employee contract over the last 40 years," she said.... "Young workers don't get to work for a company until they retire. Those kinds of practices don't happen anymore."

Employers have grown increasingly comfortable laying off employees as a cost-cutting measure, while simultaneously relying more on temporary workers and contractors. Many culled their ranks during the pandemic, so remaining employees often have to take on more job responsibilities and hours....

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<sup>1</sup> members of Generation Z (born in the late 1990s or the early 21st century)

This varies by company, but junior workers are often the easiest to let go. (Research has also found that ethnic minorities and older employees are at higher risk of layoffs, compared to younger, white workers.)

Regardless, many young employees, especially those who've entered the workforce during the past two recessions, have internalized this job insecurity and might be more eager to jump ship if a better offer arises. According to a 2019 Harris poll, workers under 35 expressed more "layoff anxiety" than their older counterparts. Many, as a result, don't develop a work identity that is tied to their employer or their current field of work. In fact, more Americans than ever are looking to start their own businesses, and low-paying workers are trying to pivot to higher-paying industries....

Carson doesn't think that most zoomers are actually anti-work, at least from a political perspective. In fact, she said, she thinks it's the opposite: She has noticed more young people publicly committing to quit an undesirable job so that they can devote more time to learning new skills, in the hopes of entering a field like tech, which boasts high salaries and good benefits. Many have also left behind corporate roles to work as full-time content creators or freelancers....

Young people understand that they have to labor for their livelihoods, but many, like...Dakota, believe the existing system has set them up to fail....

There is a dissonance, however, between these aggrieved attitudes and the political action necessary to implement change....

Employers might still hold a lot of power, but swaths of employees are organizing through unions to better the terms and conditions of their employment....

Workers between the ages of 16 and 24 have the lowest union membership rate, according to a 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics report. It's likely that fewer young people are being hired into unionized roles, given how union membership has significantly declined since the 1980s....

Dakota felt like she was initially misinformed about why people didn't want to work.... "It's not about people not working," she said. "It's about not settling for a job that diminishes their quality of life."

"Gen Z Does Not Dream of Labor" by Terry Nguyen. From Vox.com. Used with Permission of Vox Media, LLC.

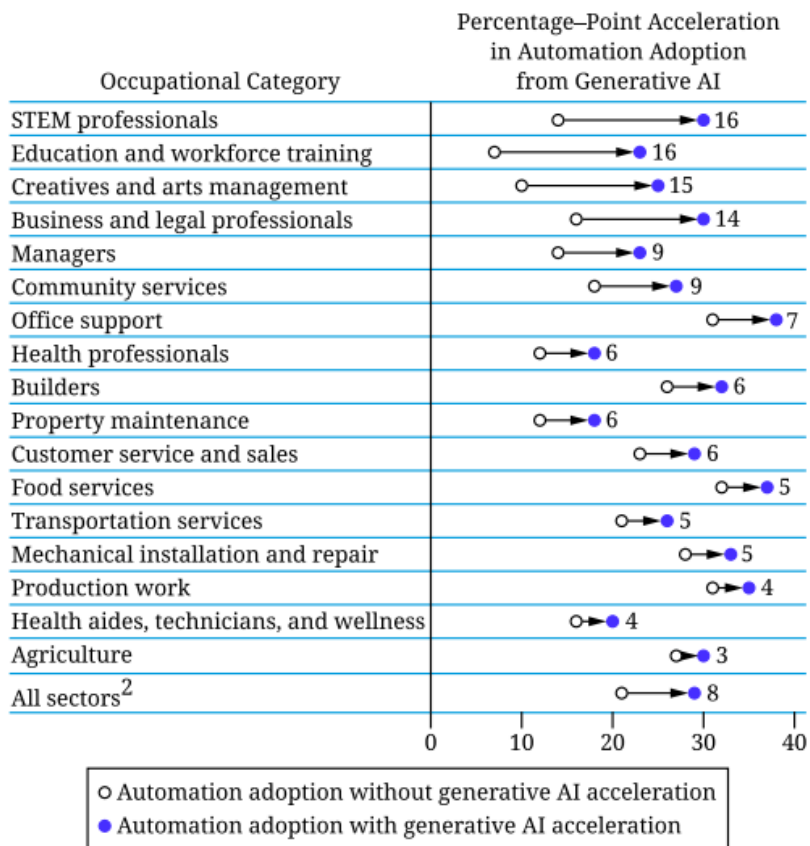
**Source C**

Excerpted from Ellingrud, Kweilin, et al. “Generative AI and the Future of Work in America.” *McKinsey Global Institute*, 26 July 2023.

The US labor market is going through a rapid evolution in the way people work and the work people do.... The nature of work has changed as many workers have stuck with remote or hybrid models and employers have sped up their adoption of automation technologies. More recently, the accelerated development of generative AI, with its advanced natural language capabilities, has extended the possibilities for automation to a much wider set of occupations....

**With generative AI added to the picture, 30 percent of hours worked today could be automated by 2030. [Automation adoption is the process of using technology to automate tasks that would normally be done by humans.]**

**Midpoint automation adoption<sup>1</sup> by 2030 as a share of time spent on work activities, US, %**



**1:** Midpoint automation adoption is the average of early and late automation adoption [i.e., when experts predict automation will happen] as referenced in *The Economic Potential of Generative AI: The Next Productivity Frontier*, McKinsey & Company, June 2023.

**2:** Totals are weighted by 2022 employment in each occupation.

Source: O\*NET; US Bureau of Labor Statistics; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

**Healthcare, STEM, and builder roles could grow, while demand for office support and customer service roles could decline.**

| Occupational Category                   | Net Change in Labor Demand, 2022-2030 (%) | Employment in 2022 (millions) |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Health professionals                    | 30                                        | 6.5                           |
| Health aides, technicians, and wellness | 30                                        | 11.6                          |
| STEM professionals                      | 23                                        | 7.9                           |
| Builders                                | 12                                        | 7.0                           |
| Managers                                | 11                                        | 9.7                           |
| Creatives and arts management           | 11                                        | 2.2                           |
| Property maintenance                    | 10                                        | 4.6                           |
| Transportation services                 | 9                                         | 5.6                           |
| Mechanical installation and repair      | 7                                         | 6.6                           |
| Business and legal professionals        | 7                                         | 16.0                          |
| Community services                      | 7                                         | 6.8                           |
| Education and workforce training        | 3                                         | 9.9                           |
| Agriculture                             | 2                                         | 2.1                           |
| Production work                         | -1                                        | 13.3                          |
| Food services                           | -2                                        | 13.7                          |
| Customer service and sales              | -13                                       | 14.7                          |
| Office support                          | -18                                       | 20.1                          |

■ Resilient and growing occupations<sup>2</sup>  
■ Stalled but rising occupations<sup>3</sup>  
■ Hit and declining occupations<sup>4</sup>

**1:** Midpoint automation adoption is the average of early and late automation scenarios [i.e., when experts predict automation will happen] as referenced in *The Economic Potential of Generative AI: The Next Productivity Frontier*, McKinsey & Company, June 2023.

**2:** Resilient during the pandemic, 2019–22, and expected to grow between 2022 and 2030

**3:** Stalled during the pandemic, 2019–22, and expected to rise between 2022 and 2030

**4:** Hit during the pandemic, 2019–22, and continuing to decline between 2022 and 2030

Source: O\*NET; US Bureau of Labor Statistics; Current Population Survey, US Census Bureau; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Exhibit/Excerpted from "Generative AI and the future of work in America" July 2023 | Report, McKinsey Global Institute, www.mckinsey.com. Copyright © 2024 McKinsey & Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

## Source D

Excerpted from Dreiser, Theodore. "Chapter II. What Poverty Threatened: Of Granite and Brass." *Sister Carrie*, Doubleday, Page & Co., 1900, pp.17–18.

In the central portion was the vast wholesale and shopping district, to which the uninformed seeker for work usually drifted. It was a characteristic of Chicago then, and one not generally shared by other cities.... The casual wanderer could see as he passed a polished array of office fixtures, much frosted glass, clerks hard at work, and genteel businessmen in "nobby"<sup>2</sup> suits and clean linen lounging about or sitting in groups. Polished brass or nickel signs at the square stone entrances announced the firm and the nature of the business in rather neat and reserved terms. The entire metropolitan centre possessed a high and mighty air calculated to overawe and abash the common applicant, and to make the gulf between poverty and success seem both wide and deep.

Into this important commercial region, the timid Carrie went. She walked east along Van Buren Street through a region of lessening importance, until it deteriorated into a mass of shanties and coal-yards, and finally verged upon the river. She walked bravely forward, led by an honest desire to find employment and delayed at every step by the interest of the unfolding scene, and a sense of helplessness amid so much evidence of power and force which she did not understand. These vast buildings, what were they? These strange energies and huge interests, for what purposes were they there?...

It was so with the vast railroad yards, with the crowded array of vessels she saw at the river, and the huge factories over the way, lining the water's edge. Through the open windows she could see the figures of men and women in working aprons, moving busily about. The great streets were wall-lined mysteries to her; the vast offices, strange mazes which concerned far-off individuals of importance. She could only think of people connected with them as counting money, dressing magnificently, and riding in carriages. What they dealt in, how they laboured, to what end it all came, she had only the vaguest conception. It was all wonderful, all vast, all far removed, and she sank in spirit inwardly and fluttered feebly at the heart as she thought of entering any one of these mighty concerns and asking for something to do—something that she could do—anything.

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<sup>2</sup> chic or smart