

West

AP Seminar Summer Reading Assignment

Text: *Think Like a Freak* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Task #1: Read *Think Like a Freak* and complete the following assignments.

- Complete the following three tasks in complete sentences for **one** of the following chapters. Chapter 2 (“The Three Hardest Words in the English Language”), Chapter 5 (“Think Like a Child”), or Chapter 9 (“The Upside of Quitting”); your responses should be about one and a half to two pages for the chapter. **This assignment will be collected the first day of class.**
 1. Identify the author’s argument, main idea, or thesis. (3 pts)
 2. Explain the author’s line of reasoning by identifying the claims used to build the argument and the connections between them (i.e. how does the author organize and support his argument?) (6 pts)
 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the evidence the author uses to support the claims made in the argument (Is the evidence credible? Is it convincing? Why or why not?) (6 pts)
- Read and take basic, short notes on the other chapters; there will be an assessment the first week of school. Your notes should focus on things like:
 - a. Levitt and Dubner’s main points.
 - b. Facts, observations that you find interesting, surprising, important.
 - c. Questions you may have.
 - d. Parallels to other reading selections or current events.
 - e. Observations or assumptions that you want to argue with (i.e. where you think Levitt and Dubner are wrong or didn’t consider something).

Task #2: Follow the News

- Because this course centers around the investigation and solution of real world problems, and in order to understand the complexity of issues at home and abroad, you will need to check the news daily. While there’s no written assignment, you are expected to know what major events occurred over the course of the summer in relation to politics, social issues, international events, etc. We will discuss these events throughout the first semester.