Overview & Purpose
Welcome to AP Seminar! This college-level course is all about solving the world’s problems — seriously! However, in order to solve the world’s problems, one must first learn to “think like a freak.” Lucky for you, the book you are about to read is a handy how-to guide.

The Assignment
There are two parts to the summer reading assignment:

1. Part 1 of the assignment requires you to read the book *Think Like a Freak* and complete the tasks outlined below. This text has been chosen for its relevance to the curriculum. It is readily available in local libraries and bookstores, and there are a limited number of copies available to sign out from me if needed. As this is a college-level course, it is recommended that you purchase the book, if possible. *All students will need to email me a picture of this completed permission form, no later than Friday, 6/16/23 (jpetrusa@bcps.org)*

2. Part 2 of the assignment requires you to select four relevant news articles and record specific information outlined below.

Assignment Due Date (Parts 1 and 2) - Friday, September 8th

PART 1 (45 pts)

Read *Think Like a Freak* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner and complete the assignments below.

- Complete the following three tasks for **Chapter 2** (“The Three Hardest Words in the English Language”), **Chapter 5** (“Think Like a Child”), and **Chapter 9** (“The Upside of Quitting”); your responses should be about one and a half to two pages for each chapter (neatly handwritten or typed double-spaced), using formal English.

1. CONCISELY, identify the author’s argument, main idea, or thesis. *(5 points)*
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?) **(5 points)**

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?) **(5 points)**

- Read and take basic, short notes on the other chapters; there will be an assessment the second week of September.

**PART 2 (34 pts)**

In order to generate research questions and ensure accuracy in your arguments, you will need to be knowledgeable about current local, national, and international issues.

Therefore, you need to establish a routine of checking the news daily. There are countless options for doing this, so explore them and find which is best for you (following news Twitter accounts, following an accurate news blog, watching the TV news, reading the newspaper, using an app.). Ideally, you will keep up with the news all summer, but you should begin your daily news checking routine by August 1st.

- Choose four articles which interest you and record the following:
  1. Title of article, author, and date published
  2. Brief synopsis of the article (3-5 sentences) **(4 points)**
  3. Brief description as to why this interests you (3-5 sentences). Please do not just say “because it is interesting.” Why is it interesting? Does it align with a particular interest of yours? Does it spark further questions you would want to explore? **(4 points)**

**Avoiding Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious offense, whether committed intentionally or unintentionally, and it involves using someone else’s words or ideas without giving proper credit (quotation marks on quoted material and sources for quoted or paraphrased information you used from that source). It is your responsibility to make sure that all your responses are 100% original in both wording and ideas, and most of the response should be in your own words and not quoted. Do not use any other source to help you write the responses (Internet, ChatGPT, another student, etc.). The penalty for plagiarism is a zero on the assignment.

*If you have any questions, email Ms. Petrusa: jpetrusa@bcps.org*