

Welcome to AP Seminar, “a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives” (College Board). What does this mean for you as a student? How is this different than other AP Courses? The answer: a challenging, yet gratifying, year of critical thinking, analysis, research, and collaboration that will help you gain confidence with your own voice in writing and speaking. You will look at other author’s arguments through a variety of perspectives and then will examine real-world issues and develop and defend your own credible arguments, both individually and collaboratively.

For your summer reading assignment this year, you will be reading *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. “With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally – to think, that is, like a freak” (Harper Collins).

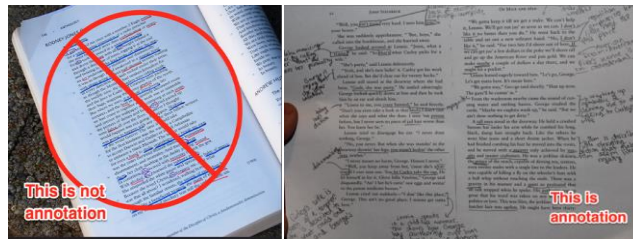
The main goal of the summer reading assignment is for you to read, think about, and enjoy a book with an important set of ideas. With that in mind, **I do not want to bog down your reading with a lot of journaling, questions, or tasks**; however, there are few things you will need to accomplish this summer as you read *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner.

1. As you read, annotate and question the book. Your annotations 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).
  - f. Definitions of unfamiliar terms, vocabulary, and concepts.
2. Consider these questions as you annotate/summarize each chapter.
  - What does it mean to admit to not knowing? Why is this so difficult for us to do?
  - What does it mean to get to the root cause of your issue/problem?
  - Why are incentives so powerful and essential to our lives?

**NOTE:** The summer reading/writing assignments will affect your academic grade. It is essential that you complete the summer reading assignments. Be prepared to discuss ALL assigned writings/projects the first day of school.

- Why is it so challenging to persuade those who do not want to be persuaded? What is the benefit of this challenge?
- How can quitting be beneficial and how does it help one to think like a “Freak?”

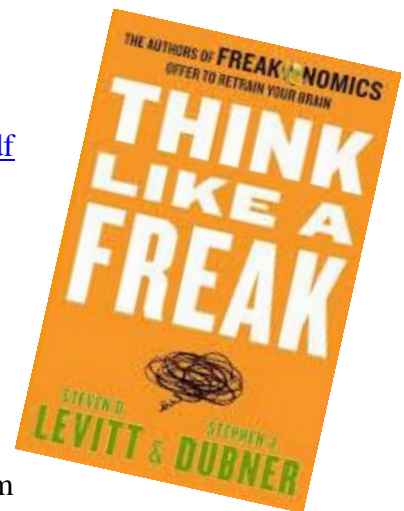
I really want to see you make meaningful notes in the margins to prove that you’re thinking as you read. Keep in mind that annotation means you are adding written notes in the margins and carrying on a conversation with the text in the margins, not just highlighting. Highlighting alone is merely coloring, and you’re not being asked to color.



\*As you will need to write in *Think Like a Freak*, it should be purchased or printed from the PDF version. You can get it new in paperback for approximately \$10, or you can purchase used copies for less on amazon.com.

PDF Link:

<http://www.davidhoma.com/Think%20Like%20a%20Freak%20-%20Steven%20D.%20Levitt%20&%20Stephen%20J.%2010492.pdf>



Please contact Ms. Lanich with any questions or concerns **as soon as they arise**. [jlanich@eriesd.org](mailto:jlanich@eriesd.org)

Also, please feel free to look at the AP Seminar Office 365 Classroom Notebook:

[https://eriesd-my.sharepoint.com/:o/g/personal/jlanich\\_eriesd\\_org/EuYpdFiYwiNKteOvFS5K6P4BIWBAfkHbXXWqvYxP22Y2kg?e=hYorCC](https://eriesd-my.sharepoint.com/:o/g/personal/jlanich_eriesd_org/EuYpdFiYwiNKteOvFS5K6P4BIWBAfkHbXXWqvYxP22Y2kg?e=hYorCC)

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