



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 from 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 assignments this year, the first is to read *Revenge of the Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. . The second assignment is to watch all three Tedtalks and score each TEDtalk.

Task 1: *Revenge of the Tipping Point*

Part 1: Markup the Text (Post-Its/Annotations)

As you read, actively annotate the text.. Use at least 3 of each of the following:

Identify:

- The central argument (claim or thesis)
- Key terms or repeated ideas
- Shifts in tone or surprising turns in logic
- Moments where evidence is used to support claims

Part 2: Argument Map (Written Response)

Answer the following in bullet or paragraph form (1–2 pages total):

1. What is Gladwell's central claim? Put it in your own words.
2. What types of evidence does he use? (e.g., anecdote, data, expert opinion)
3. How does he structure his argument? (Chronological? Cause-effect? Compare-contrast?)
What tone does he use—and how does it affect your understanding or reaction?
4. What is the most convincing moment? The least? Why?

Part 3: QUEST Connection

Pick one of the following prompts and respond in a well-developed paragraph:

- Q – Question and Explore: What larger question(s) is Gladwell really asking about society or behavior?
- U – Understand and Analyze: How does his perspective challenge or confirm what you already know?
- E – Evaluate Multiple Perspectives: What perspective might disagree with Gladwell's argument? Why?
- S – Synthesize Ideas: How does this article connect to something you've read, watched, or experienced recently?

Task 2: TEDTalks

- Watch the three TEDTalks below and score each presenter using the AP Seminar Rubric. Please click [here](#) for the rubric. I will have you submit your score sheets the first day of class.

The Power of Vulnerability

| Brené Brown • TEDxHouston

https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance

| Angela Lee Duckworth • TED Talks Education

https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

How To Escape Education's Death Valley

| Sir Ken Robinson • TED Talks Education

https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_how_to_escape_education_s_death_valley?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

If you have any questions, you can reach me, Mr. T.Phham @ tpham@eriesd.org .

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.