

AP SEMINAR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

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

PART I:

Read *Think Like a Freak* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner and complete the following assignments. (45 pts)

- Complete the following three tasks in complete sentences 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). This assignment will be collected the first day of class.
 1. CONCISELY, identify the author’s argument, main idea, or thesis. (5 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?) (5 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?) (5 pts)
- Read and take basic, short notes on the other chapters; there will be an assessment the first week of school.

PART II: (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 must begin your daily news checking routine by August 1. You will submit the following assignment on the first day of class:

- Write down the method by which you will be checking the news. Be specific- if you are following a news station on Twitter, you need to write which station. (2 pts)
- Between August 1 and August 21, 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 pts)
 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 pts)

*If you have any questions, email Mrs. Hiller: lindsey.hiller@richlandone.org