

AP Seminar Summer Assignment

Objective: To improve your comprehension of complex sophisticated material.

AP Seminar is a class devoted to research. Throughout the year, you will be reading and evaluating different sources on a variety of subjects and topics. To prepare for this exciting and innovative AP course, your summer reading assignment will require you to read four articles from four different magazines and complete the attached worksheet (one for each article).

To assist in this, it is suggested you annotate the articles as you read them. After circling/highlighting text that you feel is important, make notes in the margins that analyze the article's purpose, central idea, credibility of the article, supporting details, clarity, etc. **On Monday September 14,** you will be required to submit a completed argument worksheet (see below) for each article that you read. You will also be required to submit a copy of the article with your annotations. The four completed worksheets and article annotations will count as one major assessment for the first quarter. Each sheet will be worth 25 points.

Remember—you must read articles from four DIFFERENT magazines and four DIFFERENT dates. The magazines must be dated from June 1, 2026 to September 1, 2026.

You may only choose articles from the following magazines:

- ✓ *The Atlantic*
- ✓ *Forbes*
- ✓ *Money*
- ✓ *National Geographic*
- ✓ *New England Journal of Medicine*
- ✓ *New York Times Magazine*
- ✓ *The New Yorker*
- ✓ *Newsweek*
- ✓ *Popular Science*
- ✓ *Smithsonian*
- ✓ *Sports Illustrated*
- ✓ *Time Magazine*
- ✓ *Wired*

NOTE: These are the only publications from which you may choose articles to read. Each article must be a **MINIMUM** of two pages in length.

Grading Rubric for Each Worksheet

	TARGET	APPROACHING	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	INSUFFICIENT
Worksheet	Responses to questions demonstrate an advanced understanding of the article supported by specific and relevant details from the text	Responses to questions demonstrate an adequate understanding of the article supported by general and relevant details from the text	Responses to questions demonstrate a basic understanding of the article but unsupported by details from the text	Responses to questions demonstrate a superficial understanding of the article or missing a response for any question
Annotations	Annotations are present throughout the article and provide insightful analysis	Annotations are present throughout the article and provide analysis in need of some development	Annotations are primarily concentrated in one area of the article and provide summary information	Annotations are minimal and/or primarily highlighted or underlined text with no comments

Argument Analysis Worksheet

1. Does the author support a specific idea? If yes, what is that main idea? If not, speculate why not?

2. What reasons does the author give to support his or her main idea?

3. What evidence does the author use to support these reasons? Do you think it is credible?
Why or why not? Is it biased?

4. Are the reasons presented in a logical order? Do the reasons clearly link to one another and
to the conclusion/thesis?

5. Does the author make a reasoned evaluation of other people's views that contradict his/her own?
(Does he or she address counter arguments? If so, what are they?)

Works Cited for Article (in MLA Format)
