



SAINT IGNATIUS

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May 1, 2022

Dear AP Seminar students,

This summer the English Department is requesting that you spend some time engaged in summer reading in preparation for your AP Seminar course. This course affords you frequent opportunities to engage with issues, questions, and topics that interest you personally and connect in powerful ways with the mission of the school.

Assignment Overview:

The first step to success in this course is identifying an issue or topic that you feel is vitally important, both to you personally and to society. For your summer reading assignment, you will choose **one** of the **primary text options** listed below as your primary reading selection. I have selected a variety of titles that align well with our school's mission and also invite you to consider relevant, meaningful, and topical issues. Descriptions of each of the titles listed below can be reviewed on our [AP Seminar Goodreads shelf](#), which can be accessed using the hyperlink. **Please note that the text you select will serve as the basis for your first major research project.** *It is important that you choose a text that you not only commit to reading with interest but that you would feel comfortable continuing to work with for the first quarter of the school year.*

In addition to reading the book you've chosen carefully and completely, please complete the following:

1. As you read, create a list of questions that you have about the issues raised in the book. Please note anything that occurs to you that inspires your curiosity. There is no minimum or maximum; you may choose to note a series of smaller, more specific questions as you read, or you may choose to identify bigger themes or trends that inspire big-picture questions for you. You should have at least a few substantive, thought-provoking, and relevant questions written down when school begins in August.
2. After completing the book, identify two secondary sources that you believe address a key theme or issue raised by the book. The pieces do not need to agree with the book or say exactly the same thing; in fact, it is useful if they offer unique perspectives. The most important thing is that each of the three pieces (primary text and two additional pieces) are "in conversation" with one another, i.e., that they offer perspectives on a common theme or topic. Have some fun with this and feel free to be creative in the selection of your pieces: newspaper articles, TEDtalks or other videos, academic articles, art, photography, poetry, etc. are all welcome. The most important thing is that you choose a topic that is important in the book and that you find interesting.

Please bring your primary summer reading text, your two related texts (and/or links to access them), and your list of questions on the first day of class. You will write an in-class essay during the first week of classes on your primary text and related materials.

Primary Text Options (choose and read one):

Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School—John Medina

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking—Susan Cain

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion—Jonathan Haidt

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City—Matthew Desmond

Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century—Alice Wong

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance—Angela Duckworth

Assessments:

To be completed in the summer:

- Identification of two secondary sources (10 points)
- List of questions (10 points)

To be completed in class:

- Reflective synthesis essay (30 points)

I hope that the summer break provides you with some time to rest, reflect, and prepare for the new academic year at Saint Ignatius High School. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the summer reading assignment. I look forward to having you in class next year.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terra Caputo