

AP Seminar Summer Assignment - Due: the first day our class meets

Instructor: Ms. Deadmon (deadmon@lisaacademy.org)

STOP: Before doing anything else, send me an email to confirm you got the assignment!!

In preparation for class next year, I want you to explore some topics that are currently in the national conversation. A topic that is in the national conversation is just something that is being talked about on the news, on twitter, in classes, among your parents or friends, etc. Find a topic in the national conversation that is of interest to you and research the following:

- What are the varying perspectives on the topic? For example, if you were to look at the use of excessive force by law enforcement, there are those who feel that law enforcement officers are too quick to use force, and others feel that they are only doing what is needed to protect themselves. Think about the different ways that a topic can be approached.
- What arguments are being made about this topic? Research to find out what the conversation is on the topic. Look for news articles or editorials, blog posts, video (interviews, tv news programs, etc) and other media that comments on your topic in some way. Wikipedia is strictly FORBIDDEN!
- Why do you feel this is a topic that is significant and worthy of further exploration?

I want to stress again to pick something that is of interest to you. This doesn't have to be something serious. It can be anything that is a topic of conversation from the arenas of politics, pop culture, sports, education, the sciences, etc. In fact, because EVERYONE is talking about police brutality right now, let's not do that one. I would rather have no one do it than run the risk of having 10 presentations about that. Let's also stay away from gun control, abortion and the death penalty. Again, those have been talked about to exhaustion and there's nothing new to say. Any research on Donald Trump should take some new angle. No one wants to sit through 10 presentations on Trump & Russia.

The Assignment:

After conducting your research, create an informative 4-6 minute presentation to report your findings. There will be a penalty for going over or significantly under the minute requirement. Include an explanation of why the topic is significant and worthy of exploration. Make this interesting and entertaining. Think about including pictures, video and music if appropriate. The presentation should be heavy on visuals. Text included in the slide or prezi should be limited. I want you to talk to your audience about your topic, not read to them.

There is no requirement for the number of slides. Think in terms of being complete in your handling of the topic. I don't encourage being overly brief.

Include an MLA-style works cited page at the end of your presentation. The Purdue OWL is a good source for learning how to do this.

Please save and store these presentations on your own and be ready to present on day one. Please don't email them to me.