

**AP Seminar 2019-2020 Summer Assignment**  
**Bob Jones High School, Mrs. Scott**

Welcome to AP Seminar and what promises to be an exciting class for you, your peers, and ME! In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. Before you build your own arguments though, you will explore real-world issues through other people's arguments.

Your summer task to become familiar with skills you will learn and practice in class.....

1. On the following page, 6 TED Talks are listed that cover different topics and get increasingly complex as you work through them. In addition to the video, all the talks have a link to an Interactive Transcript and the more academic talks include links to Footnotes. Besides the 7 assigned TED Talks, you should find 1 more in which you are interested to watch and evaluate as explained below. So....you will watch the 6 TED Talks that I have listed and then pick another one to watch that you choose.
2. While you will be learning about each of these topics, you will also be evaluating the Talks using the attached AP Seminar Rubric for the INDIVIDUAL MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION of the RESEARCH-BASED ESSAY & PRESENTATION (rows 1-6 only) Your evaluation should include a score for each rubric row and support for that score including evidence taken directly from the Talk and your own explanation/justification of the score. Each rubric row score deserves a couple of sentences and some need more. So...after watching the TED talk, use the attach rubric to "score" the talk. Pick a score on the rubric and then write some commentary about why you picked that row.

Following is an example of the type of response I'm expecting for each Talk based off the attached rubric. Have the rubric in front of you and then score/write your commentary directly after you watch the Ted Talk.

Rubric link:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-seminar-individual-presentation-oral-defense-sg.pdf>

*Rubric Row 1: 4 – Context is slightly limited as the number of people affected is given but how they are affected is not. Additionally, the statement “this is an important issue for Americans today” is vague and overly generalized. No sense of why it is more important than other issues or why it is important to Americans or today.*

***You won't write about “how it is connected to the stimulus material”.***

*Rubric Row 2: 6 – The argument presented is clear and their claims are well reasoned. The evidence is connected to their claims in order to convince us of their argument. For example, they say \_\_\_\_\_ and then back it up with \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Rubric Row 3: 4 – The speaker uses evidence from several perspectives. They give evidence from different people that have a stack in the topic. For example, they talk about what teachers think about the issue and then what students think about the issue. However, they do not show how these perspectives are tied together (synthesis).*

*Rubric Row 4: 6 – The speaker provided a very detailed solution to the problem. She gave very specific examples of how we should solve the problems. She also addressed potential problems with the solution and how she would deal with those problems. .*

*Rubric Row 5: 6- The speaker's multimedia design (PowerPoint if they have one) enhanced the presentation. Slides not crowded or busy. Fewer words to distract from speaker. Slides are used to just reinforce what the speaker is saying.*

*Rubric Row 6: 6 - The speaker occasionally glances at the screen for specific numbers but has a clear understanding of the topic. Explains graphs but doesn't rely on presentation. Emphatic gestures and consistent eye contact across the audience. Gestures include using fingers to count 3 main points and moving across stage with each point. Ends presentation in center front and slightly quieter for effect.*

### **TED Talks**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_how\\_to\\_escape\\_education\\_s\\_death\\_valley#](https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_how_to_escape_education_s_death_valley#)

Sir Ken Robinson outlines 3 principles crucial for the human mind to flourish — and how current education culture works against them. In a funny, stirring talk he tells us how to get out of the educational "death valley" we now face, and how to nurture our youngest generations with a climate of possibility.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice — and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel\\_h\\_cohen\\_for\\_argument\\_s\\_sake?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_h_cohen_for_argument_s_sake?language=en)

Why do we argue? To out-reason our opponents, prove them wrong, and, most of all, to win! ... Right? Philosopher Daniel H. Cohen shows how our most common form of argument — a war in which one person must win and the other must lose — misses out on the real benefits of engaging in active disagreement.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/monica\\_lewinsky\\_the\\_price\\_of\\_shame](https://www.ted.com/talks/monica_lewinsky_the_price_of_shame)

In her frank and honest Talk "The Price of Shame," Monica Lewinsky says, "Public shaming as a blood sport has to stop." In 1998, she says, "I was Patient Zero of losing a personal reputation on a global scale almost instantaneously." Today, the kind of online public shaming she went through has become constant — and can turn deadly. In a brave talk, she takes a hard look at our online culture of humiliation, and asks for a different way.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/yassmin\\_abdel\\_magied\\_what\\_does\\_my\\_headscarf\\_mean\\_to\\_you](https://www.ted.com/talks/yassmin_abdel_magied_what_does_my_headscarf_mean_to_you)

In this funny, honest, empathetic talk, Yassmin Abdel-Magied challenges us to look beyond our initial perceptions, and to open doors to new ways of supporting others.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/andreas\\_ekstrom\\_the\\_moral\\_bias\\_behind\\_your\\_search\\_results](https://www.ted.com/talks/andreas_ekstrom_the_moral_bias_behind_your_search_results)

Search engines have become our most trusted sources of information and arbiters of truth. But can we ever get an unbiased search result? Swedish author and journalist Andreas Ekström argues that such a thing is a philosophical impossibility. In this thoughtful talk, he calls on us to strengthen the bonds between technology and the humanities, and he reminds us that behind every algorithm is a set of personal beliefs that no code can ever completely eradicate.

**1 TED Talk of your choosing!** On your paper, include the URL, author's name, and title of the Talk before you complete the evaluation.

Please feel free to email me: [dlscott@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:dlscott@madisoncity.k12.al.us) if you have any questions as you are working through the assignment. I am looking forward to a great class! Please bring your work to class the 1<sup>st</sup> day.