

Pre-course Assignment

AP Seminar

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Capstone Program! The following steps will ensure your successful transition into this two-year program. AP Seminar is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through all of your AP courses. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares students to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

You must be prepared to discuss the book [*Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green](#) on **DAY ONE** of class. Keep reading for the full assignment.

AP Seminar is founded on the **QUEST** concept:

- ★ **Question and explore:** Challenge and expand the boundaries of your current knowledge
- ★ **Understand and analyze arguments:** Contextualize arguments and comprehend authors' claims
- ★ **Evaluate multiple perspectives:** Consider individual perspectives & the larger conversation of varied points of view.
- ★ **Synthesize ideas:** Combine knowledge, ideas, and your own perspective into an argument
- ★ **Team, transform, and transmit:** Collaborate, reflect, and communicate your argument in a method suited to your audience

In AP Seminar, you will break down topics and issues by viewing them through specific lenses. You will use these lenses to analyze a number of different debates for this assignment, as well as throughout the year. Therefore it is important that you familiarize yourself with these terms.

The **lenses** are:

- ★ Environmental
- ★ Scientific
- ★ Economic
- ★ Political and Historical
- ★ Artistic and Philosophical
- ★ Cultural and Social



Assignment

Obtain a copy of [*Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green](#). You may opt to get a used, an electronic, or an audio version of the book.

When you have finished reading, you are required to answer **one question from each section** below for a total of five questions. Responses should demonstrate higher level thinking, include complex answers with explanations, and avoid the use of personal pronouns. Other than the final response, answers should be **5 to 7 sentences** in length. Please make sure that you are ready to turn in the assignment on the first day of school.

- ★ **Question and explore:** Challenge and expand the boundaries of your current knowledge
 - What did you know about the topic of the book before you began reading, and how did the book expand or contextualize your knowledge?
 - What questions have yet to be asked at the conclusion of the book?

- ★ **Understand and analyze arguments:** Contextualize arguments and comprehend authors' claims
 - What was the author's main purpose for writing about the issues in this book and how did the author develop her ideas?
 - How does the context of the problems or issues in the book affect how they are interpreted or presented?
 - What biases may the author have that influence her perspective?
 - Was this book a trustworthy/reliable source? Why or why not?

- ★ **Evaluate multiple perspectives:** Consider individual perspectives & the larger conversation of varied points of view.
 - Does the author's argument acknowledge various perspectives?
 - What characters/stakeholders contributed to these various perspectives?
 - How might others see the problems or issues that the author discusses differently?
 - What voices or perspectives are missing from the author's research?

- ★ **Synthesize ideas:** Combine knowledge, ideas, and your own perspective into an argument
 - What are the implications and/or consequences of accepting or rejecting a particular argument presented by the author?
 - What connections can you make between the multiple perspectives that are shown in this book?
 - What other issues, questions, or topics do the perspectives represented relate to?

- ★ **Team, transform, and transmit:** Collaborate, reflect, and communicate your argument in a method suited to your audience
 - When you have finished reading the book and completed the sections above, focus on a theme or issue from the book that caught your attention. Consider the Capstone Lenses listed on the first page. Write a logically organized, well-reasoned, argument that presents your own perspective on the theme or issue that you identified (**minimum four paragraphs**). You must incorporate at least **four pieces of evidence from the book** and link the claims in your argument to supporting evidence. You may include outside evidence to further support your position.