

AP Seminar Summer Assignment

First of all, welcome to the first course in the AP Capstone diploma program! To prepare for our studies next year in AP Seminar, the following assignment has been created to give you a glimpse of the types of questions we will ask, research we will conduct, and arguments we will write. There are two parts to this assignment: students must complete part one while part two allows flexibility.

Part I: (Required)

Watch the following three movies and then write three argumentative essays wherein you explore each question using solid evidence from the films as well as outside sources to support your claims.

- ★ *Inception* (2010): Directed by Christopher Nolan, rated PG-13, 148 min.

Essay Question: Where do ideas come from?

- ★ *Vantage Point* (2008): Directed by Pete Travis, rated PG-13, 88 min.

Essay Question: To what extent does subjectivity and human perspective shape what we see?

- ★ *Miracle* (2004): Directed by Gavin O'Connor, rated PG, 135 min.

Essay Question: How is an individual made stronger by a team?

Part II: (Selection)

Pick two films and corresponding assignments from the following five options. (You overachievers might be interested in watching all the movies and at least thinking through the assignments as they each speak to ideas we may discuss as the year progresses.)

- ★ *Midnight in Paris* (2011): Directed by Woody Allen, rated PG-13, 94 min.

Assignment: Identify the cultural, artistic, and literary figures (people and places) introduced in the movie. You might need to watch this film multiple times: first to enjoy the story, then to create a list for the assignment, and finally after you've done the research to appreciate all of the references.

- ★ *Million Dollar Baby* (2004): Directed by Clint Eastwood, rated PG-13, 132 min.

Assignment: Discuss the various perspectives of the ethical dilemma posed by the film, and then decide if the "right" decision was made.

- ★ *Wall-E* (2008): Directed by Andrew Stanton, rated G, 98 min.

Assignment: Identify and comment upon at least eight scientific arguments the movie makes about our future.

★ Hotel Rwanda (2004): Directed by Terry George, rated PG-13, 121 min.

Assignment: After watching the movie, go online and see if you can find some of the answers to your questions about the Rwandan genocide. Then, use that information to present a researched, academic opinion on if and how the United Nations and other human rights organizations are more capable now to positively affect political and historical change in situations like Darfur and the Sudan.

★ A Beautiful Mind (2001): Directed by Ron Howard, rated PG-13, 135 min.

Assignment: Distinguish between at least three different lenses the movie uses to examine John Forbes Nash and his contributions to the social sciences.

The completed assignment—a portfolio of your independent contemplation on some difficult questions and an example of your commitment to the demands of this course—will be collected in the first week of school; please be prepared. If you have questions over the summer, please email Mr. Marlowe at marlowejh@gm.sbac.edu. Remember this is your first chance to make a strong impression. Enjoy the films, and happy thinking!