

Real-World Problems Assignment

Before beginning Performance Task #1, it is important that you consider a variety of problems and issues as potential areas of inquiry. So that you can share in informed collaboration with your teammates, I ask that you conduct some informal research to identify several academic or real-world problems or issues (e.g. local, national, global, theoretical, philosophical) that can be researched from multiple perspectives (e.g. scientific, economic, political, cultural).

- 1) Use the following resources to identify **at least three** potential topics:
 - **Vice News** (news.vice.com)
 - **Room for Debate** (nytimes.com/roomfordebate)
 - **Your family members** (someone at least 15 years older than you)
 - **Other AP or Dual-Enrollment classes** (texts and teachers)
 - 2) Record a brief paragraph summary of each of the problems/issues. Include the resource that led you to each topic as well as your analysis of the extent to which it qualifies as a legitimate problem or issue worthy of deep research from multiple perspectives. Bring these write-ups to class as a hardcopy (i.e. handwritten or printed) on the due date.
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Second Semester Grading Changes

As you know, the second semester of AP Seminar consists nearly entirely of three Performance Tasks. (These are detailed in the syllabus.) The quality of the final product for each of these tasks will have absolutely no bearing on your transcript grade for this source; however, they will – obviously – entirely determine your AP score for Seminar.

Homework grades will consist mostly of completion checkpoints that you'll need to meet in order to keep on schedule for completing the Performance Tasks. There will, occasionally, be other scheduled assignments and quizzes which are intended to help you along the way.

The biggest change in your grades during the second semester is in regards to your *classwork grades* which will (as before) consist of daily bellwork *as well as* a weekly performance grade.

This weekly performance grade is a measure of your focus and dedication to the Performance Tasks. Being present, reliable, and on-task 100% of the time will ensure an excellent weekly performance grade. However – unexcused absences, missed deadlines, disorganization, spending class-time on something other than an AP Seminar Performance Task, and/or violation of group norms will lead to a sizable deduction in your weekly performance grade.