

**AP Seminar 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 criteria below. Please evaluate each Ted Talk on the 6 criteria below. Make a google document and type the answers to the questions on each talk and one additional talk of your choice.
  - A. Contextualization:** Did the talk give background information and why their topic is important? Explain your answer. Could they have done a better job? What would you recommend?
  
  - B. Argument:** Do they present a clear argument with well-reasoned claims? Do they present evidence for their claims? What suggestions do you have for improvement?
  
  - C. Perspectives:** Does the speaker use evidence from several perspectives? Do they blend these perspectives together? For example, they talk about what teachers and students think about an issue. Do you see areas for improvement?
  
  - D. Solution:** Does the speaker provide a solution to the problem? Is it a solution that is plausible? Explain your answer. Is there room for improvement?
  
  - E. Design:** Does the speaker use appealing multimedia design? Are slides, props appropriate for the presentation? Are there areas for improvement?
  
  - F. Speaking skills:** Does the speaker do a good job of communicating with the audience? Were you engaged in the presentation? Are there areas for improvement?

## 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 or be able to upload it.