

# Summer Reading Assignment

## AP Seminar 2023–2024

### Due date: first day of class

In lieu of reading a book for your **SUMMER READING** assignment, you will be exploring four contemporary issues and completing this packet.

#### **First, read the following notes:**

When you research an issue/problem, you should consider all relevant lenses and perspectives.

A *LENS* is a filter through which an issue or topic is considered or examined. The following are lenses: cultural/social, futuristic, environmental, artistic/philosophical, ethical, economic, political, historical, & scientific.

A *PERSPECTIVE* is a point of view. In our class, a perspective is a claim that a stakeholder (expert, entity, or person with significant interest) offers about a subject matter. It can be based on research or personal experience.

Exploring different points of view and making connections across disciplines are fundamental components of the AP Seminar experience. Students consider each research topic through a variety of lenses and from multiple perspectives, many of which are divergent or competing. Analyzing topics through multiple lenses aids in interdisciplinary understanding and helps students gain a rich appreciation for the complexity of important issues.

This class is *all* about exploring the *complexity* of *real-world* issues.

**Assignment:** listen to the podcasts at each of the links provided. Though you can read the transcript, you should listen to the people being interviewed so you can more fully engage with the variety of perspectives being discussed. After you have listened to each podcast, complete the accompanying assignment. Be ready on the first day of class to have a rich discussion about the content of each podcast assigned. Email me if you have any questions. [vickimaslo@solonboe.org](mailto:vickimaslo@solonboe.org) / [vickimaslo@solonschools.net](http://vickimaslo@solonschools.net)

Assignment One: Listen to the following podcast

<https://freakonomics.com/podcast/the-unintended-consequences-of-working-from-home/>



In one sentence, explain the issue the podcast is addressing.

What is the context of the issue? In other words, why is this issue worthy of exploration at this time?

For each of the following lenses, describe the various perspectives that are addressed in the podcast. Summarize specific content from the podcast. Be thorough.

**Cultural/Social** (What cultural or social components are included in a discussion of the issue—think classes, cultures, etc.? How does the issue impact daily lives, relationships, customs, beliefs, etc.?)

**Futuristic** (How is the future at stake or how will the future be impacted as a result of the issue?)

**Ethical** (What ethical considerations must be included in a discussion of the issue?)  
(What is at stake when the issue is explored at a moral level?)

**Economic** (What economic components can be included in a discussion of the issue?)

**Political** (What political considerations are involved in this issue?)

**Historical** (What historical components are important to a complete understanding of the issue?)

**Scientific** (What can scientific or scholarly research reveal about the issue?)

Assignment Two: Listen to the following podcast from “The Daily” July 22, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/22/podcasts/the-daily/great-salt-lake-utah-climate-change.html>



In one sentence, explain the issue the podcast is addressing.

What is the context of the issue? In other words, why is this issue worthy of exploration at this time?

For each of the following lenses, describe the various perspectives that are addressed in the podcast. Summarize specific content from the podcast. Be thorough.

**Environmental** (What political environmental considerations are involved in this issue?)

**Political** (What political considerations are involved in this issue?)

**Cultural/Social** (What cultural or social components are included in a discussion of the issue—think classes, cultures, etc.? How does the issue impact daily lives, relationships, customs, beliefs, etc.?)

**Futuristic** (How is the future at stake or how will the future be impacted as a result of the issue?)

**Ethical** (What ethical considerations must be included in a discussion of the issue?)  
(What is at stake when the issue is explored at a moral level?)

**Economic** (What economic components can be included in a discussion of the issue?)

**Historical** (What historical components are important to a complete understanding of the issue?)

**Scientific** (What can scientific or scholarly research reveal about the issue?)

Assignment Three: Listen to the following podcast

<https://freakonomics.com/podcast/the-true-story-of-the-minimum-wage-fight-ep-460/>



The image shows a podcast player interface for the episode "The True Story of the Minimum-Wage Fight" from the Freakonomics Radio Network. On the left is the show's logo. The main title is "The True Story of the Minimum-Wage Fight" with the subtitle "EPISODE 460". Below the title is a short description: "Backers of a \$15 federal wage say it's a no-brainer if you want to fight poverty. Critics say it's a blunt instrument that leads to job loss. Even the economists can't agree! We talk to a bunch of them — and a U.S. Senator — to sort it out, and learn there's a much bigger problem to worry about." On the right, it says "Apr 28, 2021", "By Stephen J. Dubner", and "Produced by Zack Lapinski". There are buttons for "Comments", "Follow this show", and "Share this episode" with social media icons for email, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

FREAKONOMICS RADIO NETWORK

FREAKONOMICS RADIO

STEPHEN J. DUBNER

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EPISODE 460

## The True Story of the Minimum-Wage Fight

Backers of a \$15 federal wage say it's a no-brainer if you want to fight poverty. Critics say it's a blunt instrument that leads to job loss. Even the economists can't agree! We talk to a bunch of them — and a U.S. Senator — to sort it out, and learn there's a much bigger problem to worry about.

Apr 28, 2021  
By Stephen J. Dubner  
Produced by Zack Lapinski

Comments

SHARE THIS EPISODE

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In one sentence, explain the issue the podcast is addressing.

What is the context of the issue? In other words, why is this issue worthy of exploration at this time?

For each of the following lenses, describe the various perspectives that are addressed in the podcast. Summarize specific content from the podcast. Be thorough.

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**Political** (What political considerations are involved in this issue?)

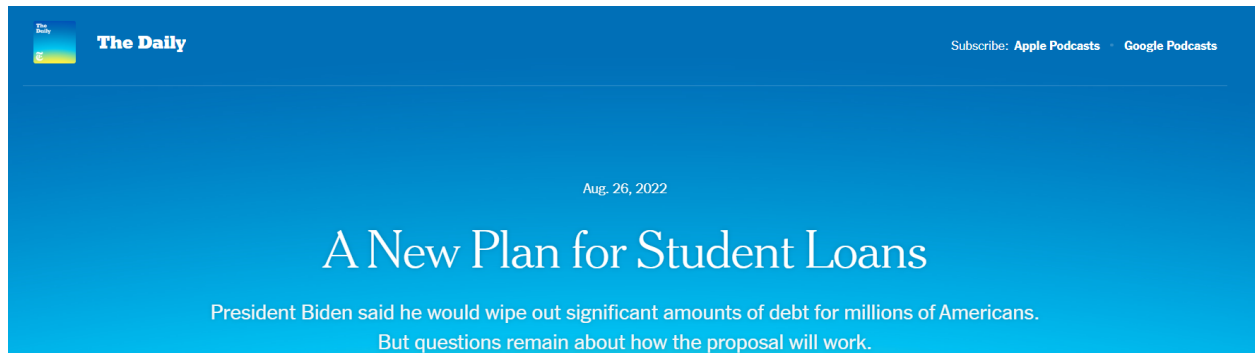
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**Ethical** (What ethical considerations must be included in a discussion of the issue?)  
(What is at stake when the issue is explored at a moral level?)

**Scientific** (What can scientific or scholarly research reveal about the issue?)

Assignment Four: Listen to the following podcast from “The Daily” August 26, 2022  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/podcasts/the-daily/student-loan-forgiveness-joe-biden.html>



In one sentence, explain the issue the podcast is addressing.

What is the context of the issue? In other words, why is this issue worthy of exploration at this time?

For each of the following lenses, describe the various perspectives that are addressed in the podcast. Summarize specific content from the podcast. Be thorough.

**Economic** (What economic components can be included in a discussion of the issue?)

**Political** (What political considerations are involved in this issue?)



**Cultural/Social** (What cultural or social components are included in a discussion of the issue—think classes, cultures, etc.? How does the issue impact daily lives, relationships, customs, beliefs, etc.?)

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