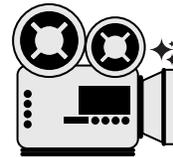


AP Seminar Summer Assignment 2025

MEDIA THAT MADE ME THINK



Purpose:

In AP Seminar, you'll explore big, real-world questions, evaluate evidence, and look at different perspectives. This summer, you'll start developing those skills by engaging with a thought-provoking piece of media—and digging deeper with a little research.



Your Tasks:

1

Step 1: Choose Your Media

Pick one piece of media that caught your attention or challenged your thinking. This can be something you explored on your own or something that went viral and made you curious.

You may choose:

- A documentary or docuseries (The Social Dilemma, 13th, Our Planet)
- A movie with a deeper message (Barbie, Don't Look Up, Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- A podcast episode with a clear theme (e.g., Code Switch, Radiolab, The Daily)
- A music video or album with social/cultural commentary
- A long-form article or essay

2

STEP 2: Think About It & Reflect

As you watch, listen, or read, jot down:

- What you think the creator is trying to say or show?
- Moments that surprised, moved, or confused you
- Any connections you notice to current events or your own life

3

STEP 3: Do Some Research

Once you've chosen your media and thought about its message, find **2 credible sources** that give factual background or offer another perspective on the topic raised.

Your sources should:

- Come from a credible website or organization (news outlets, journals, education or government sites, etc.)
- Help you understand the issue more deeply
- Either support or challenge the message of your chosen media

Examples:

If your media is about climate change, find an article from NASA, National Geographic, or The New York Times.

If your topic is about screen time and teens, look for a study or article from Common Sense Media or Pew Research Center.

4

STEP 4: Meaningfully Reflect and Respond

Now, respond to what you engaged with in a **1.5-2 page reflection** (typed, double-spaced, broken into well-organized paragraphs).

*Your reflection should cover the following information and be in **MLA format**.*

1. Describe the Media

- What is it? (title + type)
- Who created it?
- What's the main message or purpose?

2. What Impact Did It Have on You?

- Why did it stand out to you?
- What thoughts, feelings, or reactions did you have?
- Did it challenge or reinforce something you believe? Does it change your moral/societal views?

3. What Questions Did It Raise?

- What issues or problems does this media explore?
- What's still unclear or controversial?
- What would you want to explore more deeply?

4. Connect it to Research

Use your two sources to add depth and evidence to your reflection:

- What did you learn from your research that connects to the media?
- Did it support or contradict the message?
- How did it change or strengthen your thinking?

Include a citation for each source in MLA format - use a parenthetical citation within your paper and create a Works Cited Page for these two sources (use the Perdue OWL if you need help with this).

5. Connect it to the Real World

- How does the topic show up in current events, politics, or pop culture?
- Is this a conversation people are having online or in real life?
- Does it affect your community, school, or generation?

6. Where Do You Stand?

- What's your opinion on the issue or message?
- What should people know, do, or consider?
- Are there multiple sides, and where do you fall?

Submission Details:

DUE DATE:

Your completed summer assignment is **due before the first day of school**. You must submit your work online via Turnitin.com—no hard copies will be accepted.

1. Go to Turnitin.com
2. Log in with your student account
 - a. If you've never used Turnitin.com before, you'll need to create an account using your school or personal email.
3. Join our AP Seminar class using the information below:

Class ID: 48584392

Enrollment Key: apseminar

4. Once you're in the class, look for the assignment titled:
"AP Seminar Summer Assignment – Media That Made Me Think"
5. Click it, upload your file or project, and submit. If you can't find it in your Google Drive when you go to upload it, try going converting your google doc to a PDF by clicking: "File" "Download" "PDF".

Important Reminders

Turnitin.com checks for both:

- Plagiarism (copying from websites, friends, etc.)
- AI-generated writing (like ChatGPT)

Do your own thinking and writing.

Using someone else's ideas or text—even from AI tools—without giving credit is considered academic dishonesty and will result in consequences.

You are 100% capable of doing this on your own. Just be authentic and thoughtful—that's what AP Seminar is all about.

SOURCE CREDIBILITY "CHEAT SHEET"

Use the CRAAP test!

- **Currency** - is the information up-to-date?
 - **Relevance** - does it relate directly to your topic or question?
 - **Authority** - is the author qualified or an expert?
 - **Accuracy** - is the information correct and well-supported by evidence?
 - **Purpose** - why was this source created? (To inform, persuade, sell, entertain?)
-
- Use CRAAP to make sure your evidence is trustworthy, strong, and appropriate for your argument!
 - If a source "fails" CRAAP, don't use it!

<i>Credible</i>	<i>Credible</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholarly Journals (e.g., Journal of medicine, American Historical Review)• Books published (in print or online) by experts or universities• Official Government Websites (e.g., website.gov)• Reputable News Organizations (e.g., The New York Times, BBC, NPR)• Educational Websites (e.g., website.edu)• Professional organizations (e.g., American Medical Association, National Geographic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal blogs or opinion websites (unless written by a verified expert)• Wikipedia (good for background and finding more sources, not for quoting)• Social media posts (Instagram, TikTok, X)• Biased news sources or tabloids (e.g., gossip magazines)• Unverified or outdated websites• Forums like reddit, Quora, or debate.org (user opinions, not expert research)