



AP Seminar

What is it?

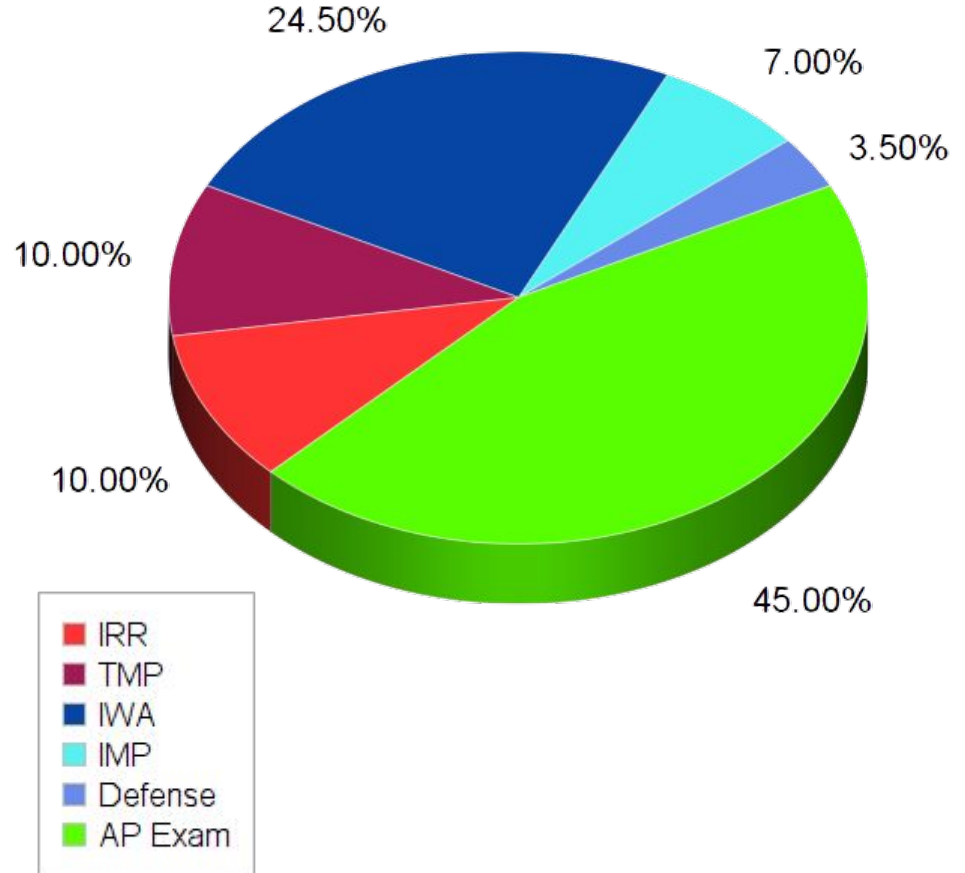


“In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments.”

According to the College Board

Components

- ❑ Team Project and Presentation [Red, 20%]
 - ❑ Individual Research Report (IRR) [50%]
 - ❑ Team Multimedia Presentation (TMP) [50%]
- ❑ Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation [Blue, 35%]
 - ❑ Individual Written Argument (IWA) [70%]
 - ❑ Individual Multimedia Presentation (IMP) [20%]
 - ❑ Oral Defense [10%]
- ❑ AP Exam [Green, 45%]



The course is skill-based

There's less focus on content, more focus on seminar research skills, such as:

- ❖ Ability to conduct both independent and collaborative research
- ❖ Synthesis of sources (You'll need to find a connection among texts and write a well-organised essay about it)
- ❖ Distinguishing between source that are credible, reliable, relevant and scholastic and those that are not
- ❖ Proper citation of sources used for research
- ❖ Presenting your findings in an engaging presentation then answering questions
- ❖ Finding an author's main claim and line of reasoning

Content in our course will relate to the social studies theme of "Citizens and States"

- ❖ What does it mean to be a citizen?
What's a "good" citizen?
- ❖ What is a state? A nation?
- ❖ Immigration, Identity, Social Psychology, Individual vs Collective Responsibility: It all gets addressed here!

Tips

What to do:

- **Try to cite as you go along**, so instead of keeping all the links and citing everything at the end, you'll save a lot of time if you just do it immediately.
- **Ask for lots of feedback** from your teacher in the first semester!
- **Rubrics, Rubrics!:** When doing any assignment that is being graded with a rubric, have the rubric with you as you're writing and constantly check yourself. Pretend you're a really harsh grader and only tick the highest mark of the row if you can prove that you deserve it.

What to avoid:

- **Broad research questions:** this is something many of us struggled with since some topics are so interesting to research and seem easy but are actually way too broad.
- **Copying and pasting from Easybib without checking:** It will be really tempting to just copy and paste, but sometimes Easybib doesn't cite correctly — like for JSTOR articles it would write JSTOR JSTOR (twice) — so just make sure you also know how to cite manually in case you need to change the citation
- **Procrastinating:** Since the content of your writing is assessed based upon a rubric with specific requirements, it's much harder to BS.

Last Year's TMP Research Questions

- What are the factors contributing to the low living standard of the Lakota people of the Midwest?
- What caused the rise of ISIS and how can we prevent another such group in the future?
- What are the causes of human trafficking and how can we prevent it from happening?
- What effects has the internet had on society, particularly the youth, and how should we discourage negative effects?

Lenses:

- Political/governmental
- Environmental
- Historical
- Futuristic
- Economic
- Socio-cultural
- Psychological
- Ethical
- Artistic
- Educational
- Scientific

Advice for Presentations (TMP & IMP)

- Make **note cards**.
- Only practicing the morning of is NOT a good idea, even if you have a free block.
- **Look at the oral defense questions** beforehand so you have an idea of what you will need to respond to.
- **Practice** in front of your peers.
- State your solution or conclusion **at the beginning** of the presentation rather than at the end.



Advice for Written Components (IRR & IWA)

- **Peer review.** Find someone you know will help you find the bits that need changing
- **Use Grammarly and Paperrater.com** to catch little grammar mistakes and punctuation issues.
- **Print out the paper and proof read it** with a brightly coloured pen. You'll be more likely to catch and make edits if you like the colour of the pen and how it looks on the paper.
- **Change the font and size of the paper and read it again.** Your brain stops reading things as carefully once you've seen them several times so changing the font and size makes it seem new and you will notice more of the mistakes.
- Find a way to **organise your sources** and stick to it. What works for your friend may not work for you and vice versa.
- **Librarians are phenomenal resources.** They are the queens of research and finding sources.



Last Year's IWA Research Questions: "Perception"

- How will the rise in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin affect the world and people's perception of money?
- Why have attempts by the West to impose their definition of a "civilised" way of living in Africa via imperialism and colonisation led to racism in the West and internalised racism in Africa and failure in the continent?
- How does fiction psychologically impact readers?
- Do people deserve their privacy even at the expense of national security?
- How can we limit the effect of cognitive biases on the way in which we perceive scientific discovery?
- To what extent have perceptions of the police helped or hindered pre-crime and post-crime investigation?

ALWAYS CITE EVERYTHING (INCLUDING IMAGES)

(this is not the correct citation, use MLA 8 or APA)

Writing advice image:

<https://hbr.org/2014/11/how-to-improve-your-business-writing>

Presentation advice image:

<https://hbr.org/2013/06/how-to-give-a-killer-presentation>