

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2017-2018

Dr. Kristen Holzer

kristen.holzer@atcschool.org

TIP: Remember, in this class you are a college student. Approach the coursework accordingly.

TEXT: Levitt, Steven D., and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. (Revised and Expanded Ed.). New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Buy the book. Read the book. Annotate the book, taking notes on the ideas and events described. Be prepared to discuss the book in class and to write analysis and argument essays about the authors' style, points of view, and themes. You will be very busy during the first three weeks of school, so don't wait until then to get started. (I reserve the right to give reading check quizzes very early in the semester.) We will start talking as soon as school begins.
2. Practice SOAPS analysis for "Chapter One" and "Chapter Two." You will find an explanation of SOAPS on the back.

Freakonomics

S.O.A.P.S. Document Analysis

Instructions: Perform a SOAPS analysis of "Chapter One" and "Chapter Two" of *Freakonomics* by answering as many of these questions as you can.

Speaker

Who is the speaker who produced this piece? What is her/his background? Why is s/he making the points s/he is making? Is a bias evident in the piece? You must be able to cite evidence from the text that supports your claim(s). No independent research is allowed on the speaker.

Occasion

What is the occasion? In other words, what is the time and place of the piece? What prompted the author to write this piece, and what in the text led you to make that claim? What event led to its publication, production, or development? It is particularly important that you understand the context that encouraged the writing to happen.

Audience

Who is the audience? This refers to the group of readers to whom this piece is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people. What assumptions can you make about the audience? Is it a culturally/ethnically/ethnically diverse group? What social class? What political party? For whom was the document created and how do you know? Are there any words or phrases that are unusual or different? Does the speaker use language the specific for a unique audience? Does the speaker evoke God? Nation? Liberty? History? Hell? How do you know? Why does the speaker use this type of language (diction = word choice)?

Purpose

What is the purpose of this piece? Meaning, what is the reason behind the text? In what ways does the speaker convey this message? How would you perceive the speaker giving this speech? What is the document saying? What is the emotional state of the speaker? How is the speaker trying to spark a reaction in the audience? What words or phrases show the speaker's tone? How is the text supposed to make you feel? This helps you examine the argument or its logic.

Subject

What is the subject or the text or the text's general topic, content, and ideas? How do you know this? How has the subject been selected and presented?