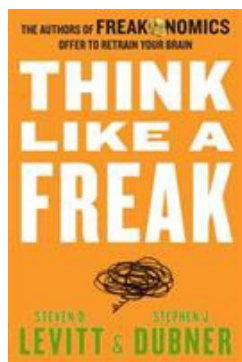


Congratulations for deciding to take AP Research! I am super-excited to work alongside you next year. While it may seem to be a challenge, I think you'll see that it is a logical next step after AP Seminar, and it will give you the rare opportunity to take a deep dive into a topic you actually are interested in! This summer should be one of INQUIRY, then: a time to PAY ATTENTION to the world around you and go down some rabbit holes, and consider what might be a good area for you to focus on.

While this is not an English class, you will have a small-ish summer assignment that will prepare you for our work this year. I am not assigning you busy work over the summer, but by enrolling in the AP Capstone program you have indicated that you are a scholar. Scholars read as a general way of life. Certain mindsets are beneficial to your success in AP Research, and the book you will read will help you with developing that. **DO THIS**

EARLY—LIKE, JUNE 1—INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL AUGUST. I promise you, it will be so helpful!



Get a copy of *Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. It's been out for a few years, so I'm sure you can find a used copy easily, or purchase a new one relatively inexpensively. I do need you to have an actual hard copy, rather than an ebook, so that you can annotate it carefully as you read.

What to annotate:

- Anything that strikes you as interesting or important.
- Anything that you have a question about or want to discuss.
- Any passage where the authors show how THEY used research to reach their conclusions.
- Any connection you can make to your own experience.

How to annotate: ANNOTATE means to highlight/underline AND write Small Notes on the Side (SNOTS)—every time you highlight or underline a passage, you also must include a note indicating why you highlighted it. Highlighting (or underlining) without SNOTS isn't annotating; it's decorating. I'll be looking at your annotations to see how you are doing. Being able to annotate well truly is essential for success in this course (and in college, I promise).

The annotations will be due the 2nd class period, and I'll go over the details then. You will receive points for them, up to 50, depending on how thoughtful they are.

In addition to reading and annotating *Think Like a Freak*, the best way you can begin to prepare for AP Research is to read. Read often. Read anything, but particularly nonfiction: News, editorials, database resources on topics that interest you, and nonfiction books. (I'm including a list of some really good nonfiction you might

consider). If you feel like you do not have enough time to read as much as you would like, then supplement by listening. Listen to podcasts. Watch Ted Talks. Get an Audible account. Download the Libby app through the Louisville Free Public Library and listen to audiobooks for free. Most importantly, think. While taking long walks on the beach, playing video games, sitting in the back of the car on a long road trip, or doing whatever summer activity enhances your life, toss around complex issues on topics of interest. Engage your family and friends in discussions on difficult concepts. Consider cause-and-effect relationships and **“think like a freak”** whenever possible.

The best part of AP Research is that you will spend an entire year investigating a topic that you choose and enjoy. Start reading and thinking about topics that interest you now! I'll be asking you to share your ideas for topics, so write them down!

Please email me at lisa.wieland@ahsrockets.org if you have any questions. AP Research will most likely be challenging, but also so, so rewarding. You will work hard, but you will also have a lot of time to do so (and a lot of fun along the way with what will become a close group of peers who understand your journey). I am looking forward to a great year!

Partial List of Awesome Nonfiction

*****Optional assignment for reading any one of these books: Send me an email; tell me what book you read, why you chose it, AND your thoughts about it. Make it specific, and let me know how the book did (or didn't) impact your thinking. This is NOT required but would be worth 25 points in the minor category. This offer is only valid once (you can't read 3 books for 75 points) and must be complete PRIOR to the first day of class. That's a hard deadline. And if you and your friends all read the same book and say the same things about it, then I reserve the right to deny you this extra credit. If you choose NOT to do this assignment, that is fine. You will be marked as “exempt” in power school.

- Anything by Malcolm Gladwell, but my personal preference: *Blink*, *Outliers*, *Talking to Strangers*, *David and Goliath*, *The Tipping Point*
- Anything by Mary Roach: *Stiff*, *Packing for Mars*, *Grunt*, *Gulp*, *Spook*
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot (love, love, love this book!)
- *Fast Food Nation*, by Eric Schlosser
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
- *The Overachievers*, by Alexandra Robbins
- *The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College*, by Jacques Steinberg
- *Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be*, by Frank Bruni
- *How the Word is Passed*, by Clint Smith
- *Columbine, or Parkland*, by Dave Cullen
- *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace*, by Jeff Hobbs

- *Radium Girls*, by Kate Moore
- *Hidden Figures*, by Margot Shetterly
- *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kiernan
- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond
- *How Your Unconscious Mind Rules Your Behavior*, by Leonard Mlodinow
- *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-term Effects of Childhood Adversity* by Nadine Burke Harris
- *Nickel and Dimed*, by Barbara Ehrenreich (really so good! I think everyone who reads this is changed)
- *The Library Book*, by Susan Orlean
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson
- *How Not to Die*, by Michael Gregor MD
- *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Aspergers*, by John Elder Robison
- *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv
- *Factfulness*, by Hans Rosling
- *Salt: A World History*, by Mark Kurlansky
- *Collapse*, by Jared Diamond
- *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert
- *There's No Such Thing as Business Ethics*, by John Maxwell
- *The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance and Empower the Mind*, by Michio Kaku
- Anything by Jon Krakauer, but I personally like *Under the Banner of Heaven* and *Missoula*
- *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson
- *The Boom*, by Russell Gold
- *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman
- *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice*, by Dina Gilio Whitaker
- *The Algorithm*, by Hilke Schellmann (fascinating read about AI)
- *The Alignment Problem*, by Brian Christian (also great AI book)
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, by Carol S. Dweck
- *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*, by Atul Gawande (recommended by so many AP Research gurus)