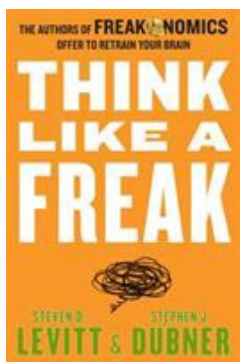


Congratulations for deciding to take AP Research! I am super-excited to work alongside you next year. While it may seem to be a challenge, I think you'll see that it is a logical next step after AP Seminar, and it will give you the rare opportunity to take a deep dive into a topic you actually are interested 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!



1. 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. Heck, you can even listen to the audiobook if you prefer.

2. **READ IT:** The entire book must be read before the first day of school.

3. **TAKE NOTES** (Optional—this will NOT be graded.) It's just to help you and your understanding.) As you read, you may want to take notes on the following:

- **Challenges:** how is my own way of thinking challenged by this?
- **Inquiry:** how could I investigate this more?
- **Inspiration:** what issues, problems, or interests might I want to explore?
- **Questions** you may have (for discussion, for me, for each other)
- **Insights** you may have (for classroom discussion)

4. BRAINSTORMING AND “PRESEARCH”: (You'll turn this in on Day 1; should be typed and saved as a word document; it is 50 points in the MASTERY category and will be graded for thoughtfulness and attention to detail.)

- Research possible topics you are interested in pursuing for your AP Research Academic Paper (4,000-5,000 words).
- Write down **three to five possible topics**.
- Choose **one** of the issues you listed that you consider the one topic you may want to research. What is a current issue you are interested in?
- Why are you interested in this issue?

- Does this issue have more than one perspective you would like to examine? If so, what are the perspectives? Provide details about how each perspective relates to the topic.
- What are your own personal feelings on this issue? Explain why you feel this way.

In addition to reading *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. 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 walks on the beach, playing video games, sitting in the back of the car on a 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!

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!
