

2026 Advanced Placement Capstone Seminar Summer Assignment

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I'm excited that you have enrolled in the first course of the College Board's AP Capstone program. AP Seminar serves as a fundamental course that immerses you in interdisciplinary discussions, delving into the complexities of both academic and real-world issues through the analysis of diverse perspectives. The ultimate goal of this course is to empower you to critically analyze and evaluate information with precision, enabling you to construct and present evidence-based arguments effectively.

I encourage you to start this course by reflecting on yourself. Your life, culture, experiences, and impressions of the world shape your unique worldview, which influences every part of your life, including your approach to research and learning. This summer, you will focus on building a foundation of self-reflection, allowing you to view the world with greater clarity. You will accomplish this through two tasks:

1. Cultural Identity Self-Assessment
2. Relative Interview and Reflection

These tasks should be typed and printed. You will submit your work in our first class.

Task 1: Cultural Identity Self-Assessment

For each of the prompts below, answer them fully and completely. Try to invest some time and dig deep when thinking about the questions.

1. Where and when were you born?
2. Where did you grow up?
3. Have you traveled or moved as a child?
4. Where did your parents grow up?
5. Where did your grandparents grow up?
6. Where did your great grandparents grow up?
7. What is your earliest memory?
8. What is your earliest school memory?
9. What cultural factors in your background might contribute to being misunderstood or rejected by members of other cultures?
10. What personal qualities do you have that will *help* you establish personal relationships with people from other cultural groups?
11. What personal qualities do you have that will *make it difficult* for you to establish personal relationships with people from other cultural groups?
12. Recall a major international event that occurred within your lifetime. Try to answer the following: Who was involved, what was the event, where did it happen, how did it happen, and why did it happen? How did it make you feel?
13. Recall a major event that occurred during your lifetime in the country you have spent much of your life (where you "grew up"). Try to answer the following: Who was involved, what was the event, where did it happen, how did it happen, and why did it happen? How did it make you feel?
14. Select three key events in your life, as far back as you can remember, that may have impacted how you engage with the world. Describe them.

Task 2: Relative Interview and Reflection

As a child, I interviewed my grandfather about his experiences in World War II. I'm so happy that I did that. I learned so much about his worldview and who he was.

Conduct a live interview with one of your oldest living relatives (in person or video call), then type your answers to the following reflection questions. You may take brief notes while you're talking, but mostly listen.

Note: This can be done in any language.

Reflection Questions

1. Who did you interview and what is their relationship to you? In general, how did the interview go?
2. What is the most memorable part of the interview? (Maybe something the interviewee revealed or an event of some sort that occurred during the interview.)
3. What part of the discussion revealed the most surprising information to you? State the question, describe the response given, and explain why it was surprising.
4. If you were to talk with the interviewee again, what new questions would you want to ask?
5. Has your impression of or attitude toward your family member changed in any way because of the interview? Explain.
6. What information did you hear during this interview that you already knew?
7. What information did you not expect to hear by doing this interview?
8. How does your relative's experience and life impact your own?

Sample Interview Questions (you do not need to use all of these, and you may add some new ones of your own)

1. Describe one of your earliest childhood memories.
2. Who was your best childhood friend?
3. Growing up, what place was really important to you? Living room, kitchen, garden? Can you describe it to me?
4. Describe the most unusual or memorable place you have lived.
5. How did you grow up? Where did you live? What was your childhood home like? Was your family financially stable?
6. What character traits did you have as a child? Kind, quiet, mean, bossy, confident?
7. What childhood memories of your mother and father do you have?
8. Describe a significant holiday memory. Where did you go? What did you do? Why is it so memorable?
9. What was your education like? What type of school did you attend?
10. Can you tell me about a time when you did something you shouldn't have done?
11. Have you ever needed stitches, broken a bone, or been hospitalized?
12. Describe your most memorable vacation.
13. Did you grow up with family traditions? Can you describe one?
14. Can you tell me about an event in your life that made you feel anxious or scared?
15. What are some sayings, expressions, or advice you heard at home when you were growing up?
16. What was your experience like in the world as a young adult? Do you notice any difference between your experiences and the experiences of young adults today?
17. How has your view of the world changed over the course of your life?

18. Do you have any advice, worries, or hopes for me about my future?