

## AP Language Summer Assignment

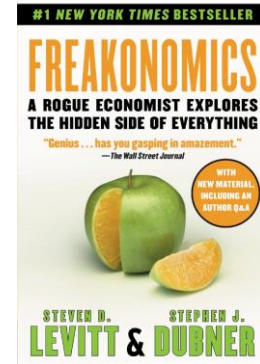
**Reading:** *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*

**Authors:** Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner

**ISBN-10 :** 0060731338

1. Read *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner. There are many editions of the book, some with added material or supplements. Any edition is fine, but you only need the original text, which has six chapters.

2. As you read, you should read actively, **annotating your book (pencil in margins, highlighter, or post-its - your choice) for three things: (1) Claims**, or points the authors make which are debatable and require support; **(2) Evidence**, or facts and reasoning which is introduced to support those claims; and passages of **(3) Explanations**, which analyze and connect the evidence to the claims. Try to identify these three things as you read, and notice how they work together. If you're not sure what is what, that's ok. Try your best. This is something we'll work on all year. **Expect that I will collect your book and check your annotations.**



3. **Choose one argument from any chapter that you find convincing and one argument from any chapter that you find unconvincing.** If you feel an argument is convincing, this may be because you find the evidence particularly compelling, the authors' reasoning to be accurate, or that you just find the style of the argument persuasive. If you don't find an argument well supported, it's likely the opposite is true. Each chapter is made up of several arguments, so don't choose a whole chapter, just a part. A few examples of "arguments" from the chapters:

- Teachers - like sumo wrestlers - will cheat, given the right incentives.
- Real estate agents use "informational asymmetry" to manipulate people.
- The Roe v. Wade ruling was responsible for lowering violent crime.
- Crack gangs function as effectively as fast food franchises.
- Having a low birthweight is more correlated with academic success than whether or not your parents read to you as a child.
- etc.

4. For **each** argument you choose, write one paragraph that summarizes the authors claims and evidence, and another paragraph that explains what you found convincing (or not) about that argument. Summarize the relevant claims, evidence, and reasoning in each argument. Then, explain what you think works or does not work about the argument you chose. Why is the argument convincing, or not? Be specific, citing textual evidence when applicable. Each paragraph should be substantial (10-12 sentences, at least) and demonstrative of your best writing.

5. **Your response should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted to Schoology before our first class meeting.** I'll make an assignment shortly before school starts. Do not email me your essay. Your book should also accompany you to class. Come to class prepared to discuss the

arguments in the book and present your findings. If you have questions, email [jacob.sunderlin@signature.edu](mailto:jacob.sunderlin@signature.edu)