

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

How Channel View School for Research Is Using **AP Seminar** as English 10

A CLOSER LOOK:

AP Seminar Enhances Teaching and Learning at Channel View

I love designing AP Seminar curriculum. I enjoy selecting themes and searching for texts from different disciplines to create a unit of study. In the past, I would design curriculum that would coordinate with what my students were learning in their history class. AP Seminar has encouraged me to be more creative and discover new ways to make connections between literature and other disciplines.

MS. FRIEDMAN'S SAMPLE LITERARY TEXTS

- Personal narratives, speeches, and paintings
- *Frankenstein* excerpts
- Independent reading focused on literary texts
- 9th graders read Amy Tan's "Fish Cheeks" and "Two Kinds" from *The Joy Luck Club*. 10th-grade AP Seminar pairs Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Ted Talk* "The Danger of a Single Story."
- 9th graders read Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*. 10th-grade AP Seminar pairs Romare Bearden's painting "Tomorrow I May Be Far Away" with "Dreams" or "Harlem" by Langston Hughes.



The course has especially improved our students' ability to synthesize information. Students have become better writers and have improved their ability to incorporate evidence from multiple sources. The course also demands that students consider how an author structures an argument—a skill they've been able to apply to their own writing.

AP Seminar in Action

We're an Expeditionary Learning School. Each semester, students complete interdisciplinary case studies and learning expeditions. AP Seminar aligns with this work. Students make connections between different subject areas and work on long-term projects that often involve text analysis and research.

MEET THE TEACHER



Allison Friedman, English Teacher
CHANNEL VIEW SCHOOL
FOR RESEARCH

- New York City District 27
- Rockaway Park, NY

ABOUT CHANNEL VIEW SCHOOL FOR RESEARCH'S AP SEMINAR PROGRAM

- Fulfills an English 10 graduation requirement
- Offered since 2018
- Before AP Seminar, students took English 10 honors

Our students also participate in National History Day. Students are assigned a theme and research a historical event. They're required to complete an annotated bibliography, which they also work on in AP Seminar.

In addition to AP classes, our students can take early morning College Now classes through CUNY for college credit. One of the courses is an introduction to sociology and psychology. The teacher mentioned that he has been getting much better research papers from students who took the AP Seminar class.

Channel View Student Growth and Skill Building

The AP Seminar skills support other AP classes. Our 10th graders who take AP World History at the same time as AP Seminar are more likely to score 3 or higher on the AP World History Exam. We didn't offer any presentation training before AP Seminar so this class has helped them develop this skill. We now have former AP Seminar students participating in the My Brother's Keeper Fellows Program, which involves public speaking and participating in symposiums.

Expanding Equity and Access Through AP Seminar

For the past three years, one honors class has taken AP Seminar. This year, we have four classes taking AP Seminar—one 11th-grade honors class with a technology focus, one 10th-grade honors class with a technology focus, one traditional 10th-grade honors class, and one general education class with some English language learners.



Ms. Friedman's Tips for English Teachers New to AP Seminar

The best way to learn the curriculum and improve instruction is to sign up to score AP Exams. Because of the scoring training and practice, I have a much better understanding of the performance tasks and exam.

I also found the additional training videos helpful. During my first year teaching the class, I only had time to review the mandatory training about presentation scoring. If time allows, look at the optional training videos for the performance tasks and exams. My school set up a peer tutoring program during the second year. We had students who scored 3 or higher on the AP Seminar Exam meet with current AP Seminar students to support them. Because we offer AP Seminar in grade 10 and AP Research in grade 11, we also have students who completed AP Research available to tutor current Research students.

Introduce students to "putting texts in conversation" as soon as possible. Teach students how to read scholarly journal articles. I reviewed some college websites with recommendations about how to approach the more scientific peer-reviewed articles and shared these strategies with my students.

Sometimes I think my most important job as an AP Seminar teacher is supporting students who are having their first real experience with a stressful workload and deadlines. Keep them calm. Celebrate each successfully completed task.

Students are able to choose topics that they care about. They learn traditional English class skills while researching and writing about something that interests them. They're more motivated to learn these writing skills when they're using them to examine a topic they feel passionate about.

Learn more about offering AP Seminar as an English course at: collegeboard.org/apseminarELA