The AP Summer Reading Assignment consists of two novels of social, political, and environmental commentary. They both predict very different visions of the future.

**Brave New World,** Aldous Huxley, 1932

Huxley's imaginary world has a decidedly utopian cast. Scratch beneath the surface, however, and you discover that there is nothing beneath the surface, because even the ruling class is kept infantile by means of conditioning, drugs and sex. The novel poses questions about immediate gratification and social control.

**The Overstory,** Richard Powers, 2018

*The Overstory,* a contemporary best-selling novel, examines the world of trees through nine different points of view. Powers has been called a “historian of contemporary society” who examines our connection to the environment - specifically to trees. You will not see the world in the same way after reading this novel.

**Close Reading Assignment**

Please use sticky notes in order to mark short quotes and longer passages in the novels which seem to shed light on one or more of the following thematic questions:

- What is the proper relationship between the individual and the state? Should the state serve the interests of individuality or should the individual serve the environment?

- Are personal relationships sacrosanct? Or are they, like everything else in the modern world, fair game for control and manipulation by the state?

- What is the relationship between passive acceptance and political activism or rebellion?

- What is the meaning of the ending of each of the novels? What message or warnings are the respective authors trying to convey?

**Reading Log Assignment**

*Length: 5-6 pages / novel (total 10-12 pages)*

Having completed the reading, return to your sticky notes and select what you think are the 12 most important or interesting quotes from each novel. Use these quotes to create a Reading Log in which you copy the quote and then write three to five sentences of commentary (your opinion, not plot summary).

Remember, you are preparing in your log to write your first take-home essay of the senior year in AP, which will be a comparison of these competing visions of our future, so the more thoughtful and thorough your log is, the better prepared you will be.

Please be prepared to submit reading log to Turnitin.com and to Google Classroom.
Have a great reading summer!

**Quote Log**

**Title of Book** ____________________________ **Author** __________________________

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<tr>
<th><strong>Significant Event</strong> (cite the text, don’t cite more than 3-4 lines, include page number)</th>
<th><strong>Commentary</strong> (Why is this important? What causes change? What are the motivations? How are reactions gaged? What are some connections?)</th>
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