

Directions: You will be reading Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner's book "Think Like a Freak*." This book will give you a fun introduction to the economic way of thinking. After reading the book, follow the directions regarding the questions for further thought.

**There are several options for obtaining the book online for free. I suggest using one of any number of free trials to an e-book service to obtain the copy. Please note that this method will likely place a time constraint on your ability to read the book and answer the questions, so please ensure that you have sufficient time set aside to complete the assignment.*

When responding to questions, your responses must be between 450–500 words.

Section 1

Answer the following question:

1. The authors open the book with the question: "What does it mean to think like a Freak?" Now that you've read the book, offer your answer.

Section 2

Choose two of the following questions.

2. "Most of us, if asked how we would behave in a situation that pits a private benefit against the greater good, won't admit to favoring the private benefit. But as history clearly shows, most people, whether because of nature or nurture, generally put their own interests ahead of others," the authors write. Why is it difficult to acknowledge our own selfishness? How might the world be a better place if more people considered the personal motivations behind their choices and actions? Do you think that awareness would change behavior?
3. The authors argue that an overreliance on morality can be detrimental to good decision-making, that it biases our thinking. What is your opinion? What kind of a society would we be if we relied less on our moral compass when making important decisions?
4. One of the lessons the authors teach is to admit and embrace what we don't know. Are you able to say this when you don't know something? Why is it difficult for us to admit a lack of knowledge? Have you followed their advice since reading the book? If so, what is the general reaction you receive when you say "I don't know?"
5. Do you have a particular approach for solving problems? Did reading the book provide you with new insights and ideas for improving or enhancing your own process? Explain.
6. Choose two three of the lessons from the book you found to be the most provocative or enlightening. Talk about why you found them to be remarkable, and what you learned from each.

(cont'd on next page)

Section 3

Answer the following question.

7. What did you take away from reading Think Like a Freak?

Rubric

Each response will be scored individually. Your total grade will come from the some of the individual responses.

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Word Count	<i>The work does not meet prescribed standards</i>				<i>The work meets prescribed standards</i>
Application	<i>The work is off-topic/not germane to the reading</i>	<i>The work is only loosely connected to the work</i>	<i>The work is connected to the reading, and shows minimal understanding of the reading</i>	<i>The work is connected to the reading, and shows a moderate level of understanding of the reading</i>	<i>The work is connected to the reading, and shows a high level of understanding of the reading</i>
Originality	<i>The work shows no/little original thought</i>	<i>The work shows some original thought, but relies heavily on quotations</i>	<i>The work shows some original thought</i>	<i>The work shows a moderate level or original thought</i>	<i>The work shows a high level of original thought</i>
Style & Grammar	<i>More than 10 spelling/grammar errors</i>	<i>7-9 spelling/grammar errors</i>	<i>4-6 spelling/grammar errors</i>	<i>2-3 spelling/grammar errors</i>	<i>0-1 spelling/grammar errors</i>
Punctuality	<i>The work was submitted more than 5 days late</i>	<i>The work was submitted 4-5 days late</i>	<i>The work was submitted 2-3 days late</i>	<i>The work was submitted 1 day late</i>	<i>The work was submitted on time</i>