

AP Research

Summer Assignment 2021

Ms. Veltman

Dear AP Researcher,

I'm looking forward to working with you next year! Summer is a great chance to do some of the "pre-thinking" about possible AP Research topics. The big difference between AP Seminar and AP Research is that in AP Seminar you were synthesizing other people's research while in AP Seminar you will be conducting your own research.

Committing to your actual research question is serious business, and we will work on that together in the Fall. However, it is important to come to class in August with some ideas in place.

You have a surprising amount of freedom in terms of fields of study and research topics. As you been to consider your topic, keep in mind the following:

1. Think about what is truly intellectually interesting to you.
2. What are the current questions/conflicts/problems/issues/advances currently being discussed in academic circles around your topic?
3. There must be an existing body of research on the topic.
4. What is the relevance or "so what" of your topic?
5. What is NOT yet known about your topic? What is a current GAP in the research (THIS will be your primary goal during the class—to identify the gap and do research to move the discussion forward to fill the gap.)
6. Be creative and reflective. What matters to you? Your topics can stem from many fields including art, literature, science, politics, history, sports, fashion, sociology, archeology, sociology, or the intersection of several fields.

DO NOW/BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER:

1. Expand your social media follows. Figure out who is talking about the issue(s) you're interested in? Who are they following? What organizations, companies, academics, politicians, etc. are working on these issues? Follow these people on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook. Read what they are posting. Figure out the "hot button" issues related to your topic. Be intentional about who you follow so you aren't drowning in unhelpful accounts. Your goal should be at least 20 new follows. Do this at the beginning of the summer so you will have followed/been reading about your topic over a period of time by the time school starts.

2. Identify hashtags that will connect you posts about your topic. Dive into the hashtag. Then follow accounts posting things that grab your attention. Use the bookmark feature to save posts you want to revisit.
3. Set up Google Alerts for your topic. You will get a weekly (or daily if you want) alerts of what is being published on your topic/area of interest.
4. READ what is being posted online! It isn't helpful to follow accounts and get alerts if you don't read what is being posted.

BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

1. Log on to EBSCO. Find and read two academic journal articles related to what you think you may want to research. If you can't find any research on your topic, you may not be on track to a usable topic. What are two central claims the author makes in each? Describe the author's methodology (how they conducted their research).

BRING A TYPED RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING TO CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY:

1. Who were your five best new social media follows? What are some of the things they have been discussing online related to your topic over the summer?
2. What are three ideas you are considering for areas of research?
3. What do you still need understand or learn more about before you would be able to research this topic?
4. Complete the following questions for your two EBSCO articles:
 - a. Include the MLA citations for each.
 - b. Is there one central claim? What are at least two sub-claims
 - c. Describe the author's methodology (how they did their research).
 - d. Identify any next steps/suggestions for further research the author addresses in the article.
 - e. Describe your interest level in the articles you read. Do they make you want to continue with the topic or run the other direction? Explain your answer.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: veltmanj@asf.edu.mx

Have a great summer!
Ms. Veltman