

Summer Assignments: AP Research

Dear Researcher,

I must first and foremost congratulate you on your interest in challenging yourself with the AP Capstone program. The skills that you have and will continue to acquire due to the Capstone program are paramount in your post-high school success. So, to your dedication, I salute you!

Now, down to business. The following summer work has been created after much consideration and discussion with other AP Research colleagues. I am NOT about busy work, but there are some concepts and items that you need to establish for *yourself* prior to starting AP Research. These are concepts that should be considered while taking long walks on the beach, while sitting in the back of the car on a road trip, while trying to fall asleep at camp, while playing video games, or whatever summer activity enhances your life. Know that you will be asked to dig deep, so please start now. **Please check out a copy of *Practical Research: Planning and Design* from the Media Center prior to leaving for summer.**

All work will be due on the second Friday that we return to school, by the end of the day (08.12.2016). Only work turned in on time will be accepted.

I look forward to working with you very soon. If you feel concerned, bewildered, overwhelmed, confused, frustrated, or any combination of the previously listed, please do not hesitate to contact me. I get paid to support you, simple as that. I will be checking my email all summer, so feel free to contact me!

Best Wishes,
Emily Lott

Summer Reading and Reflection

Approximate Time Needed: 4 Hours

Directions: Complete the following reflections prior to the start of AP Research. These reflections are purposefully driven to help you make the jump from AP Seminar to AP Research. Complete the reflections electronically and print them for your PREP, a tool required by College Board that will help you stay organized in this year-long process. Please include the question when providing your responses. Responses should be at minimum a paragraph per question and should exhibit your ability to provide supporting textual and experiential evidence as well as depthful discussion.

Text: Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2013). *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. (10th ed.). New York: Pearson.

Title of Reading	Pages	Questions for Reflection
"What Research is Not"	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What surprised you in this section? Why?● According to this section, how is AP Seminar different from AP Research?
"What Research is"	2-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What part of this section interests you? Why?● According to this section, how is AP Research an extension of AP Seminar?
"Words Enhance Thinking"	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How will words influence your ability to conduct research?● Out of the four sections, which section did you connect to most? Why?
"The Human Mind"	17-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Which subsection -Critical Thinking, Deductive Logic, Inductive Reasoning, Scientific Method, Theory Building, and Collaboration with Other Minds- are you least familiar with?● Which subsection -Critical Thinking, Deductive Logic, Inductive Reasoning, Scientific Method, Theory Building, and Collaboration with Other Minds- is most critical for Research? Why?

Further Reading (Suggested):

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.C., & Williams, J.M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. (2nd ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Summer Research Question Work

Approximate Time Needed: 4 Hours (More if you complete suggested work...which would be a REALLY good idea.)

Similarly to AP Seminar, College Board wants you to present your AP Research academic paper with a leading question; however, in AP Research this question is called a Research Question (RQ). The following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research RQ. Complete the chart requirements and write your initial RQ. Remember, the topic you decide to work with must hold your interest for the entire year. Sit and reflect about your true interests for this course prior to completing this chart.

Creating a Research Question: Complete the following reflection questions on your electronic reflection document. The following elements are critical when attempting to build your research question. If you are struggling to understand the four major concepts -focus, scope, value, and feasibility- do not forget to reference your textbook. After answering the questions in this chart, attempt to write your research question. You will need this RQ at the start of this year.

Concept	Description	Reflection Questions to Answer (Required)	Additional Work (Suggested)
<p>Focus</p> <hr/> <p>Research Discipline and Topic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Discipline:</i> Lens or section of focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art ○ History ○ Humanities ○ Hard Sciences ○ Social Sciences ○ Mathematics ● <i>Topic:</i> Specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school? ● What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research? ● What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gather 10 research articles in the discipline of your interest. <p>You can use these articles to help inform the structure and style of your academic paper. This will remove some of your confusion when you begin composing your academic paper.</p>
<p>Scope</p> <hr/> <p>Depth and Size of your Research Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Context:</i> The specific setting of your research ● <i>Variables:</i> The items/people/situations/issues/ concepts being studied and/or manipulated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What specific things will you study? People? Animals? Things? Concepts? Theories? ● How will you work with the people/animals/things/ concepts/theories that you will research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 10 research articles that work with similar variables to your research interest. <p>You can use these articles to help inform your research method that you will construct in the course.</p>
<p>Value</p> <hr/> <p>Contribution to the Body of Knowledge</p>	<p>The value of your research is determined by how your contribution enhances what is already known about the topic. You are expected to either add to the current conversation of a discipline or use multiple discipline conversations to create new knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will your research change the way we currently see the topic? ● How will your research benefit society or your discipline of study? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 10 current discussions about your topic. Look for contrasting views about the topic. <p>You will be able to use this content for your literature review or discussion of your topic. This will help you locate the need for your project.</p>
<p>Feasibility</p> <hr/> <p>Possibility of Research</p>	<p>Time, money, and resources can play a major part in determining the ability to complete your research.</p> <p>You will have around two months to complete your actual research project: December and January.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research? ● How long will your research take? ● Do you have access to the things you need for research? ● Who can help you with your research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make contact with an adult that is skilled in your topic. Talk with them and ask if they would be interested in supporting you during your research process. <p>College Board requires you to have a <i>Expert Advisor</i>. Building a professional relationship with someone invested in your discipline will strengthen your academic paper.</p>

Initial Research Question: