

AP Research

Summer Assignment 2022

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Dear AP Research student,

AP Research is a class unlike any other! Up until now, you've probably learned how to read and synthesize the research of other people. Now, it's time to take your research to another level. Next year, you will come up with a question that has never been answered, design a method, collect data and add to the body of knowledge about your topic.

Scholarly research is an undertaking that requires a lot of brainstorming and reflection. Committing to your actual research question is serious business, and we will work on that together in August. However, it is important to come to class with some ideas in place.

You have a surprising amount of freedom in terms of fields of study and research topics. Past AP Research students have delved into lab experiments, psychology, literary analysis, fashion, sports, arts and more.

As you begin to consider your topic, keep in mind the following:

- Reflect and consider what is truly intellectually interesting to you.
- What are the questions/conflicts/problems/issues/advances currently being discussed in academic circles around this topic?
- There must be an existing body of research on the topic.
- What is NOT yet known about your topic? You want to find a GAP in the research that you can fill.
- What is the relevance or "so what" of your topic? Who will care about the answer to your question?

DO NOW/BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER:

1. Expand your social media follows. Twitter is a great place to follow academic conversations. 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 related to your topic. Dive into the hashtags. 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 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:

Log on to EBSCO or JSTOR. You can access these via ASF’s [Learning Center site](#) under the research tab. Find and read two academic journal articles related to what you think you may want to research. (If you can’t find any research related to your topic, you may not be on track to a usable topic. Adjust!) What are two central claims the author makes in each article? Describe the author’s method (how they conducted their research).

FOR THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN A GOOGLE DOC AND BE PREPARED TO TURN THIS IN:

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 to understand or learn more about before you would be able to research this topic?
4. Respond to the following questions for each of your two EBSCO articles:

- a. Write a correct MLA citation.
- b. Is there one central claim? What are at least two sub-claims?
- c. Describe the author's method (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 us at andersona@asf.edu.mx or starke@asf.edu.mx.