



AP RESEARCH 2022-2023

Summer Communication & Assignment

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May 31, 2022

Dear AP Research Students,

Welcome to the second phase of the AP Capstone program, AP Research! As you continue your QUEST journey toward the AP Capstone Certificate and Diploma, there are a few things I would like to remind you of as we transition to the upcoming year. In electing to pursue this second course, you are committing yourself to an advanced interdisciplinary course that will build on your previous learning and extend your scholarly research skills through an inquiry into a research topic of your own choosing that appeals to your interests and curiosity. Unlike in AP Seminar, where the focus is on analyzing the perspectives of others, in AP Research, you will design your own methodology to gather data that will inform your own perspective. Simply put, YOU are taking your place in the scholarly conversation through your research!

As you know by now, the Capstone program is a two-year course at Malden Catholic that begins with AP Seminar in the junior year and culminates with AP Research in the senior year. Presently, the AP Capstone program satisfies your theology requirement for grade 11 (AP Seminar) and grade 12 (AP Research). We will incorporate regular prayer, spiritual reflection, and your Christian service responsibilities through this course.

Although you may elect not to pursue the second course (AP Research), it is encouraged of students to follow through with the commitment over two years unless you receive a score below passing on your AP Seminar exam or have decided that the course will not be a good fit for you, in consultation with your family and school counselor.

As with AP Seminar, coursework in AP Research is rigorous but entirely manageable. Laziness, disorganization, and poor self-motivation will be big disadvantages here, since disciplined time management and effective organization of research materials will be critical for your success. And because this course requires peer feedback, presentations, and collaborative discussion, non-participation will not be tolerated. Having completed AP Seminar, you know the drill. This is largely a collegiate **seminar-style** course. The engine that makes it run is your collective, regular, and thoughtful participation, exhibited by thorough preparation with course materials and sufficient attention devoted to individual research and reflection.

AP Research is a research-based course driven by **recursive inquiry**, which means that we will go back and forth between different stages of the QUEST process as we consider different questions, assumptions, hypotheses, perspectives, methods, data sets, and conclusions. Since your exam score is based on one **Through-Course Performance Task** (the Academic Paper and Presentation/Oral Defense), I strongly encourage you to treat each day as though it is part of your exam task, because it is. Your academic paper and presentation/oral defense are the *only* components of your exam score.

We will review your performance task in greater detail in class, but for now, here is a summary of the major components of the course (College Board, 2017):

Academic Paper (75% of Exam Score)

In the classroom and independently (with the consultation of expert advisers), students learn and employ research and inquiry methods to develop, manage, and conduct an in-depth investigation of an area of personal interest, culminating in an academic paper of 4,000 – 5,000 words that includes the following elements:

- Introduction and Literature Review
- Method, Process, or Approach
- Results, Products, or Findings
- Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation
- Conclusion and Future Directions
- Bibliography

*** The Academic Paper is submitted your College Board Digital Portfolio before April 30th.
Formal due date TBA.*

Performance and Oral Defense (25% of Exam Score)

Students develop and deliver a 15-20 minute presentation (using an appropriate medium) and a three-question oral defense to a panel on their research processes, method, and findings.

*** PODs must be completed before April 30th. Formal presentation dates TBA.*

Process and Reflection Portfolio – PREP (Curricular Requirement)

Using a process and reflection portfolio (PREP), students document their inquiry processes, communication with their teachers and any expert advisers as needed, and reflections on their thought processes. Students have regular work-in-progress checks with their teachers to review the progress and to receive feedback on their scholarly work. All assigned classwork and homework will be kept in the PREP folder as well.

*** All students must make a folder in Google Drive called **Your Name – PREP** and share it with Mr. Gregory as soon as possible, no later than June 17. If it is incorrectly labeled or not shared with me, you can expect to hear from me.*

The broad overview of the year for AP Research is as follows:

<p><u>Quarter 1</u> (Sept. – Oct.)</p>	<p>Recap of Summer Work Study Discipline-Specific Ways of Knowing, Types of Research Finalize Research Questions; Conduct Further Preliminary Research Develop Annotated Bibliographies Contact Expert Advisers (As needed) Write Initial Inquiry Proposals; Choose Your Research Method Peer Feedback and Reflection</p>
<p><u>Quarter 2</u> (Nov. – Dec.)</p>	<p>Finalize Inquiry Methods Write and Present Final Inquiry Proposals for Review (Teacher, IRB) Write Introduction and Literature Review</p>
<p><u>Quarter 3</u> (Jan. – Mar.)</p>	<p>Finish Introduction and Literature Review Draft Method Section, Implement Method, Gather and Analyze Data Draw Conclusions, Evaluate Implications, Limitations, and Further Directions Peer Evaluations and Feedback of Academic Paper Compose Final Academic Paper</p>
<p><u>Quarter 4</u> (Apr. – May)</p>	<p>Submit Academic Paper as Final (75% of AP Seminar Exam Grade) Prepare and Deliver Presentation & Oral Defense (25% of AP Seminar Exam Grade) Research Showcase, Talk to AP Seminar Students Turn in Senior Christian Service Paper</p>

On the pages that follow, I will discuss your summer assignment and required course texts that you have to obtain. There are 2 main components to the summer assignment: (1) Reading and Essay and (2) Question Work Reflections. Assignment 1 is designed to introduce you to the foundations and purpose of research. Assignment 2 will allow you to begin the process of focusing a topic and question of your own. Both will be due at the dates and times specified in the assignments, and all writing will be stored your PREP folder. Please adhere to the instructions and let me know if you have any questions. **You will be held accountable for any missing work past the due dates.**

In the days ahead, you will receive an invitation to our new AP Research Google Classroom page. **Please accept this invitation immediately.** Email and Google Classroom are the primary ways I will be communicating with you throughout the summer, so I will expect that you are checking your email and Google Classroom at least 1-2 times per week unless your family is on vacation and has no access to internet.

I look forward to another successful year together. You have all demonstrated yourselves to be worthy of contributing to dynamic scholarly conversations in unique and compelling ways. This is likely the first task of this kind you are being asked to produce, so you should be proud of yourself for taking on this challenge. If you invest the proper time and energy into it, this experience will benefit you for the rest of your life. I am confident that you are up for it.

Happy Research!

Mr. Gregory

Required Course Texts

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*. The New Press. 2018 (ISBN: 978-1620973493).

https://www.amazon.com/Strangers-Their-Own-Land-Mourning/dp/1620973499/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

****NOTE:** I encourage you to use Amazon or a similar vendor to find the most affordable copy possible, but *please ensure the ISBN numbers are correct*. You must have the editions indicated above.

Recommended but Not Required Texts

APA 7th Manual Made Easy: Full Concise Guide Simplified for Students: Updated for the APA 7th Edition. 2021. Appearance Publishers.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B091QXBDW1/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Leedy, Paul and Ormrod, Jeanne. *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. 12th Edition. 2018 (ISBN: 978-0134775654).

https://www.amazon.com/Practical-Research-Planning-Design-12th/dp/0134775651/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=practical+research+planning+and+design&qid=1622555886&s=books&sr=1-1

^ I will be scanning some articles from this book but you may want a copy of your own. It is more expensive than the other books listed but a highly regarded and comprehensive research resource. ***Students in previous years have used this book significantly.***

NOTE: Based upon your choice of research question and method, there may be other texts that surface throughout the year that you will want to consider purchasing.

To-Do List

- Purchase required text (and any recommended texts you'd like)
- Check MC E-mail for invitation to AP Research Google Classroom and accept as soon as you see it come through
- Create a folder in your MC Google Drive labeled: **Your Name – PREP**
- Complete Reading and Essay Assignment (Assignment #1 below) by **Tuesday, 9/6**
- Complete Question Work Assignment (Assignment #2 below) by **Friday, 9/2**

Your assignment instructions can be found on the pages that follow.

Summer Assignment #1: AP Research Summer Reading and Essay Questions

Due: Upon return to school on **Tuesday, September 6th, in class**

Submitted via: Google Docs, shared with me (gregoryr@maldencatholic.org) by placing it in your PREP folder.

Essay Instructions

The point of this essay exercise is to start to make sense of the usefulness of particular research methods, in this case, methods within **qualitative** research. Read this description from Leedy and Ormrod (2018):

To answers some research questions, we cannot skim across the surface. We must dig deep to get a complete understanding of the phenomenon we are studying. In qualitative research, we indeed dig deep: We collect various forms of data and examine them from various angles to construct a rich and meaningful picture of a complex, multifaceted situation (p. 228).

In the case of Arlie Russel Hochschild (2018), you will see that she is doing exactly this kind of work, “digging deep” to make sense of a phenomenon that has captivated her attention and sparked her academic curiosity. You will also notice how her preliminary research continued to shape and refine her research question.

First, you will read *Strangers in Their Own Land*. Then, you will read a section from Leedy and Ormrod, which will provide you with an overview of different types of qualitative research methods and their uses (Ch.8, pp.228-237). I will provide you with this reading.

After you have done this, it will be your job answer the following questions in at least 1-2 pages **each**. Start each question on a new page, do not weave them into one essay.

- 1. What is the author’s purpose for conducting this research? How would you articulate her research question? According to the author, why does this research have value?** Support your observations with relevant evidence from the text and incorporate at least one of the “Potential Advantages of a Qualitative Approach” on p.230 of Leedy and Ormrod into your answer.
- 2. Using the descriptions of the different qualitative research designs in Leedy and Ormrod, identify several examples where you see them employed by the researcher, and give evidence from the text to support your identification.** Both studies will draw from at least several designs, although there is no need to incorporate all. For example, think about it this way: *Ethnographic research often takes place at specific field sites in which a group of people share a common culture... where do I see this in the text? Or, how does this particular method of data collection exemplify a _____ design?*
- 3. In this final section, the ball is turned over to you to evaluate how effectively the author used their method(s) to answer their research question.** In your judgment, do their findings ultimately have value? And for what? What new understandings have you taken away from the study? How do you think her findings advanced research in this field? Which qualitative methods that she employed interested you the most and why?

A group discussion of the book will follow in early September.

Your essay must:

- ✓ Be at least 1-2 pp. for each section, starting each section on a new page
- ✓ Be typed in **Times New Roman** font
- ✓ Be double-spaced
- ✓ Be formatted with standard, 1-inch margins
- ✓ Have a title page: Name, AP Research, 2022 Summer Essay
- ✓ Be free from careless editorial mistakes
- ✓ Be composed in Google Docs using your Malden Catholic account
- ✓ Be submitted according to the guidelines above, adhering to the deadline
- ✓ Be your own work

Should you choose to **plagiarize** any or all of your summer reading essay, it will result in a grade of **zero credit** and a **recommendation that you withdraw from the course**.

A note on direct quotes and citations: Because we are working with a prescribed set of text, you only need to use in-text citations for this assignment. If you choose to quote directly from one of the readings, you can attribute by using the author's last name (e.g. "According to Hochschild," or "Hochschild argues that...") and use an appropriate parenthetical in-text citation at the end of the quote (Hochschild, 22). Since we are working within the same text, please use page numbers. Also, do not simply use quotes as lengthy pieces of filler.

Summer Assignment #2: Question Work Assignment

Due: No later than **Friday, September 2nd**

Submitted via: Google Docs, shared with me (gregoryr@maldencatholic.org) by placing it in your PREP folder.

Suggested time: 1-2 hours per week, *at least* 6-8 hours over the course of the summer (varies according to your disciplinary habits)

The following assignment is adapted from: Emily Lott, Chestatee HS, Gainseville, GA

Instructions

Similar to AP Seminar, College Board wants you to present your AP Research paper with a research question (RQ). In AP Research however, the question takes on a new dimension: an inquiry into something that is not yet fully known. Your job is to generate a new understanding. The following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research RQ. You will complete the requirements in the chart below and write your initial RQ by the end of the summer. Remember, *the topic you decide to work with **must** hold your interest for the entire year.* It is critical that you reflect thoughtfully over the summer about your true interests prior to completing this assignment.

Creating a Research Question

For each of the 4 concepts below, create a Google Document and place into your PREP. Then complete the tasks that go with each. Reflection questions can be answered in a paragraph or two. Be thorough enough but not excessive.

Once you have completed the 4 tasks below, create another document labeled "Initial Research Question" and place it into your PREP along with your initial attempt at a written Research Question. This will be a working document that will be revised.

1. FOCUS | Choosing a Research Discipline and Topic

Description	Reflection Questions to Answer	Research Element
<p>Disciplines are sections of focus such as art, history, humanities, hard sciences, social sciences, etc.</p> <p>Topics are specific interests within a discipline that create the basis for RQs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- At this point, what discipline are you most interested in working within?- What further detail can you add to more clearly shape a topic interest?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gather 5 peer-reviewed scholarly research articles in the discipline and topic of your interest. Post the identifying information and URLs underneath your reflections. <p><i>Note: you are not bound to them but they will help inform the structure and style of your academic paper.</i></p>

2. SCOPE | Thinking about the Depth and Size of Your Research Project

Description	Reflection Questions to Answer	Research Element
<p>Context is the specific setting of your research.</p> <p>Variables are the items, people, situations, issues, concepts to be studied and/or manipulated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What types of things are you most interested in studying? People? Animals? Concepts? Theories? Objects? - Phenomena? Naturally-occurring? Man-made? - How do you think you might want to work with these things to shape your research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather 5 peer-reviewed research articles that work with similar variables to your research interests. Post the identifying information and URL underneath your reflections. <p><i>Note: you are not bound to them but they will help inform your eventual research method.</i></p>

3. VALUE | Making a Contribution to the Body of Knowledge

Description	Reflection Questions to Answer	Research Element
<p>The Value of your research is determined by how your contribution enhances what we already know. You are expected to either add to the current conversation or create new knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you think your research will change the way we currently see the topic? How do you <i>hope</i> it changes the way we currently see the topic? - How will your research benefit society or your discipline of study? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather 5 current conversations about your topic. Try to find at least one contrasting view. Post the identifying information and URL underneath your reflections. <p><i>Note: you will be able to use this content to ground your literature review or discussion. This will help you locate the need for your project.</i></p>

4. FEASIBILITY | Considering the Possibility of Research

Description	Reflection Questions to Answer	Research Element
<p>Time, money, and resources and can play a part in determining the feasibility of your research. Keep in mind that you will have 2-3 months to complete your actual research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What things might you physically, logistically, or monetarily need? Do you think you'll have access to everything you'll need? - How long will your research take? - Who can help you with your research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify an adult "expert" (teacher, college professor, professional expert e.g. doctor, lawyer, scientist) and include their contact information below your reflection. If you feel ready, make contact with them and ask if they would be interested in supporting your research.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at any time by email at gregoryr@maldencatholic.org.