

AP Research Summer Assignment

Due: First Day of School

A Word About the Summer Assignment:

The following summer assignment is deemed necessary in order to have sufficient time to develop, carry out, write, and report about one's research. If this assignment is not completed by the first day of school you run the risk of falling behind in the research process.

In September we will meet together to discuss your topic. If none of your research questions are suitable (i.e. your research proposal is too simple, too complex, too vague, or has already been done before), you will need to revise your topic.

It is imperative to keep the class at the same pace as there is much peer reviewing and editing that occurs throughout the process. In the past, when students fell behind in their work and the research process, they were left out of the extremely important peer review process. Most of the feedback from the writing process must come from peer review, as the AP Research instructors are not allowed to provide direct feedback on the student's work. This would jeopardize the authenticity of the student's work.

To prepare, you will develop THREE potential research questions and conduct background research for each.

The most significant difference between Seminar and Research is that you will be required to conduct your own research. The goal is to gather data about one of the areas that the existing research for your topic does not address. With that being said, your research question will need to be one that is realistic: you will need to have access to the sample you will study. To put this into perspective, if you wanted to research how classical music impacts students' work productivity, then your sample would be students. This would be a realistic research topic as you have access to students. Don't immediately rule out an idea because the sample size is not easy to access- be creative! On the other hand, don't choose a research topic that you know you will not be able to access.

I look forward to working with all of you. If you have any questions please reach out to me over the summer: saguado@bergenfield.org Please keep in mind that I will be in Spain from August 1st-20th. I will be checking my email but please be patient for a response.

Directions

For each of the three questions, complete background research to determine what is known about the topic and (through your initial research) what is not known. In other words, you are looking for a **gap in the knowledge base** of your topic. You CANNOT do a research project on a question which has already been answered. This “gap in the knowledge” is what differentiates AP Research from AP Seminar.

You must read at least FIVE sources for each Research Question. One of your sources must be from a database. You do not need to formally cite these; a link will suffice for websites. If you are pulling an article from a database, you must save it to your Google Drive and provide us with the database name, the title of the article, and the author of the article. DO NOT give us a link because links for databases do not take you directly back to the article. Then, fill out the following information based on your background reading for developing your research topic and question.

Read the information below to help guide you with this process:

A research question is the core of a research project, study, or review of the literature. It centers the study, sets the methodology, and guides all stages of inquiry, analysis, and reporting.

A research question starts with a research problem, an issue that you would like to know more about or change. Research problems can be:

- Areas of concern
- Conditions that need to be changed
- Difficulties that should be erased
- Questions that need to be answered

A research problem leads to a research question that:

- Is worth investigating
- Contributes knowledge & value to the field
- Will yield a new understanding or perspective (one that is not already known)

There are TWO steps to drafting a research question/purpose statement.

Step 1. Draft a research question.

Example: What effects did 9/11/01 have on the future plans of students who were high school seniors at the time of the terrorist attacks?

Example (measurable) Questions: Did seniors consider enlisting in the military as a result of the attacks?
Did seniors consider colleges closer to home as a result?

Step 2. Draft a purpose statement.

Example: The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of the 9/11/01 tragedy on the future plans of high school seniors.

Background Reading Sources

- ★ [Academic Databases](#) (click link for cheat sheet and explanation of databases)
 - Login for Databases
 - Username: bergenfield
 - Password: bears
 - Login for EBSCO
 - Username: bergenfield
 - Password: bears-2020
- ★ Wikipedia
 - This is a great starting point- remember what the video we showed you said. Click the [link](#) if you need a reminder.
- ★ Google Scholar
- ★ [Newspaper/Op-Ed](#) (click link for important information regarding media bias)
 - BBC, NPR, Washington Post, Economist, The Atlantic, The National Review

Research Topic 1

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Findings:

1. What is known about this research question? Include 10 pieces of information:

2. What (so far from your initial research) is not known? Include two things:

3. What about this topic attracts you? (bullets are fine)

Background Reading Sources (Feel free to add rows if you need)

Source Name (Website or database name)	Title	Author	Link
Website Example: CNN	Rare blue dragons are washing up on the Padre Island National Seashore	By Leah Asmelash, CNN	https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/09/us/blue-dragon-padre-island-national-seashore-trnd/index.html
Database Example: EBSCO	A Whale of an Interest in Sea Creatures: The Learning Potential of Excursions	Hedges, Helen	N/A
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5			

Research Topic 2

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Findings:

1. What is known about this research question? Include 10 pieces of information:

2. What (so far from your initial research) is not known? Include 2 things:

3. What about this topic attracts you? (bullets are fine)

Background Reading Sources (Feel free to add rows if you need)

Source Name (Website or database name)	Title	Author	Link
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Research Topic 3

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Findings:

1. What is known about this research question? Include 10 pieces of information:
2. What (so far from your initial research) is not known? Include 2 things:
3. What about this topic attracts you? (bullets are fine)

Background Reading Sources (Feel free to add rows if you need)

Source Name (Website or database name)	Title	Author	Link
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Directions: Now that you have thoroughly researched three topics, it is time to choose which one you will focus on. Please write one paragraph answering each question. To be clear, you are only doing this portion of the assignment for the ONE research question you choose.

1. Which question, from above, are you choosing?
2. Explain your rationale for choosing this research question for your AP Research project.
3. Who or what would you study? Explain how you would access it (a connection you have, school, etc). *Do not feel like you have to limit yourself to *just* the population at BHS- you will have the option to contact local organizations etc.
4. Think about what conclusions your research would yield. Who would it matter to that you published this research and why?