SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: AP RESEARCH

Hello Researcher!

Congratulations on making the decision to challenge yourself with AP Research this year. The skills you will be acquiring in this class will help you in many aspects of your post-high school life.

The following summer assignment is intended to get you thinking about topics that you may want to research. AP Research will require you to dig deep into your chosen topic, so you need to spend some time now deciding what interests you and what can keep your interest throughout the entire process.

All work will be due at our first class and late work will not be accepted.

If you have questions about anything, you may email me any time this summer. I look forward to learning about your chosen topics with you!

Best,
Ms Pratt
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TASK 1: FINDING AN AREA OF INTEREST FOR RESEARCH

In AP Research you start with a guiding question, also known as a Research Question (RQ). The goal of this part of the assignment is to brainstorm ideas for your AP Research project. The following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research 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 these charts. Complete this interest inventory before continuing with the final task.

Part A: Think Holistically

For this section, do a little research on NPR, JStor Daily, INSPIRE, another reliable database, or consider topics you learned about in your other classes. List at least 2-3 general areas of interest in each category. Your answers can be bullet-pointed phrases.

1. Look up topics related to art or culture (music, literature, film, theater, etc.). What interests you?

2. Look up topics related to the economy – U.S. or another country. What interests you?

3. Look up topics related to the business world. What interests you?

4. What are some current political issues in the U.S. that interest you?

5. What are some current political issues globally that interest you?

6. What are some historical topics that interest you? What historical topics relate to a current issue today?

7. What are some health/medical related topics that interest you?

8. Which kind of science most interests you? What are some topics in that field?

9. What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology?

10. What place interests you?

11. What is your favorite book? Movie? Why?

12. What career are you considering pursuing?

13. What are some current issues in education?

14. Spend one day observing as you go about your day (brush your teeth, drive around, walk, shop, interact, travel, etc.) What are some interesting things you notice? What do you wonder? What surprises you?

Part B: Think Introspectively

For this section, just answer the question. These can come from you or from your topic exploration in Part A, but they don't have to. Your answers should be in paragraph form.

1. What fascinates you?

2. What is something you are curious about?

3. What is a problem you would like to see solved?

4. What is a topic you are passionate about?

5. What prediction can you make about the future?

6. What is something you would like to create?

7. What is something you don't understand but would you like explained?

8. In what ways do people surprise you?

Part C: Think Academically

For this section, focus even more specifically on the concepts that impact a well-developed and well-designed academic inquiry. Your answers should be in paragraph form. These can come from your topic exploration in Parts A and B, but they don't have to.

Concept - Focus Deciding on your research discipline and topic.
A discipline is a lens or section of focus

- Art
- History
- Humanities
- Hard Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Mathematics

The topic is your specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question

1. What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school?

2. What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research?

3. What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest?

Concept - Scope Deciding on the depth and size of your research.
You will look at the context which is the specific setting of your research. You will also look at the variables which are the items/people/situations/issues/concepts being studied and/or manipulated.

1. What specific things would you like to study? People? Animals? Things? Concepts? Theories?

2. How could you work with the people/animals/things/ concepts/theories that you will research?

Concept - Value Identifying how you would be contributing to the Body of Knowledge
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.

1. How would your research be relevant or interesting to society or within your discipline of study?

2. How could your research benefit society or your discipline of study?

Concept - Feasibility What is the possibility of Research
Time, money, and resources can play a major part in determining the ability to complete your research. You will have around two months to complete your research process.

1. What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research?

2. What factors will affect how long your research will take?

3. How will you get access to the resources you need for your research?

4. Who can help you with your research?

TASK 2: EXPLORING POTENTIAL RESOURCES

1. Look back over your interest inventory and choose the two topics that you find most intriguing. What questions do you have about this topic?

    a. *Topic 1* -

        i. Question 1 -
        ii. Question 2 -
        iii. Question 3 -

    b. Topic 2 -

        i. Question 1 -
        ii. Question 2 -
        iii. Question 3 -

2. Choose ONE of the topics above and search for some potential sources. Create a chart that contains permalinks and the title/author for each of your resources. You do NOT need to annotate these sources. YOU WILL BE USING THESE SOURCES AS PART OF YOUR CLASS ASSIGNMENTS.

    a. Resources to Gather

        i. Find 5 research articles in the discipline of your interest. (They can be on any topic within the discipline.)

ii. Find 5 current discussions about your topic. Look for contrasting views about the topic. At least 5 should be peer-reviewed/ scholarly articles.
iii. Identify 2-3 adults who are skilled in your topic or discipline. Locate contact information to ask if they would be willing to support you as an expert advisor.

TASK 3: CREATING A RESEARCH QUESTION

Look back at the questions that you brainstormed in Task 2 and think about your interests and the potential resources available. Draft an initial research question to start off the semester. Your question will evolve and change, so this draft question doesn't need to be perfect. It just needs to be done.