



AP Research Summer Assignment

Start Date: May 26, 2026

Submission Deadline: August 3, 2026 (First Day of School)

Grade Posting Date: August 28, 2026

Student Direction:

Welcome to AP Research!

I am excited to continue working with you in AP Research, the culminating course of the AP Capstone program! AP Research is unlike any other high school course. You will be challenged, supported, and trusted as a scholar during a year-long independent research journey.

Course Overview

AP Research is the natural extension of AP Seminar. While Seminar focused on analyzing existing arguments, AP Research asks you to create new knowledge. In this course, you will: design and pursue an original research question, conduct sustained, in-depth research in an academic discipline of your choice, apply appropriate research methods (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed), write a 4,000–5,000 word academic research paper, and present and defend your work through a formal oral presentation and Q&A

You will have significant independence, but you will not be working alone. I will guide you through every stage of the process encouraging you to think deeply, ethically, and creatively.

Summer Assignment Overview

The AP Research summer assignment is essential preparation for the year ahead. Everything you complete will be used as we begin shaping your research direction in the opening weeks of school. The assignment is divided into two major tasks and is due by the end of the first week of class.

1. Task 1: Summer Reading & Reflections (approximately 1-2 hours of work)

You will read selected excerpts from *Practical Research: Planning and Design* by Leedy and Ormrod. Through reflective responses, you will clarify what research is and is not, reflect on how AP Research differs from and builds upon AP Seminar, and begin developing the reflective voice you will use in your Process and Reflection Portfolio (PREP).

2. Task 2: Finding an Area of Research Interest (approximately 3-4 hours of work)

This task guides you through structured brainstorming to help you identify a topic that can sustain your interest for an entire year. You will explore potential topics holistically, introspectively, and academically, reflect on personal interests, academic strengths, and real-world relevance, and begin considering discipline and scope of your research topic and question. There is **no expectation** that you will arrive with a perfect research question at this point. **The goal is thoughtful exploration, honest reflection, and curiosity.**

AP Research is demanding, but it is also profoundly empowering! You will leave this course having completed a project that very few high school students ever attempt, and that is something to be proud of. I look forward to helping you shape ideas that matter to you and to the broader world.

Enjoy your summer, read thoughtfully, get curious, and come ready to ask meaningful questions. We will begin building something remarkable together.

Best,
Ms. Lang, M.A.

“Where Education Meets Purpose”

