2026-2027 AP Research Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Research! I am very excited to work with you over the 2026-2027 school year. This class is a chance to spend time looking into an issue that YOU are interested in!

Everyone can be very successful in this course; the key is completing assignments when they are due and being good at time management.

Below is the summer assignment. It is important that you complete each part in order, as you will use this information during the first two weeks of class. Note that the first two tasks call on you to read and annotate*****.

What do I mean by read and annotate? Mark and comment on places where you have questions, where you get ideas, etc.

You can download and print these from the CSN website, or you can pick up hard copies in my room (Field House North) before the semester ends.

1. Read and annotate the pdf document (Scherff & Rush (2018), Chapters 3 & 6). This is part of a book I co-authored. It provides a foundation for the class—the two broad types of research methods and the process of writing the paper.

2. Read the THREE sample papers provided to get some ideas regarding the different types of topics students have pursued. These were written by CSN students using different research methods: experiment (coincided with Independent Science Research), survey, and content/thematic analysis. Annotate for questions and/or ideas.

3. Start keeping a journal with a list of potential research topics/questions. How do you come up with questions? Simple! Read, watch the news, talk to family members, listen to podcasts, watch YouTube/TED Talks, etc. Think back to how you identified issues and problems in AP Seminar. I recommend installing the Flipboard app on your phone and customizing your preferences. There are many "stories" that link to research studies, and these are great sources of inspiration for your own research projects.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! I can be reached at my school address: lscherff@communityschoolnaples.org.

*****I WILL NOT CHECK ANNOTATIONS FOR A GRADE—THESE ARE TO HELP YOU GET STARTED WITH KEY TERMS AND IDEAS SO WE CAN HAVE GOOD DISCUSSIONS THE FIRST TWO WEEKS. DOING THIS UPFRONT WORK WILL HELP YOU DO BETTER IN THE CLASS!!!