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. This is a living document and is intended to be added to and thought about all summer. Please do not sit down to do this the week before you come back to school.

All work will be due on the Friday of our first week of classes and **late submission of this assignment 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
epratt@wma.us

TASK 1: FINDING AN AREA OF INTEREST FOR RESEARCH

The topic you decide to work with must hold your interest for the entire year. So I really want you to sit and reflect about your true interests for this course prior to the start of the school year. Complete this interest inventory before continuing with the rest of the summer assignment.

Part A: Think Holistically

For this section, you are just doing general searches to find what interests you. Look at popular news sites, google scholar, or online magazines. 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?

Part B: Think Introspectively

For this section, just answer the question. These should come from you and your personal interests. They do not need to be deeply academic, if you are really into astrology then write about astrology. 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 you would 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.

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 basis 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?

TASK 2: EXPLORING POTENTIAL RESOURCES

Part A: Taking inventory

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

a. *Topic 1* -

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

b. Topic 2 -

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

Part B: Contributing to the Conversation

You are expected to either add to the current conversation of a discipline or use multiple discipline conversations to create new knowledge that adds to the body of knowledge.

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. Consider your proposed questions in Part A as you answer this section. Answers should be in paragraph form.

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 - 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. Consider your proposed questions in Part A when answering this section. Your answers should be in paragraph form.

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

2. How would you like to work with the people/animals/things/concepts/theories that you will research? (Conversations, observations, data collection, experiments, creating something)

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. Consider your proposed questions in Part A and your suggested scope when answering the section below. Answers should be in paragraph form.

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 3: GETTING READY FOR RESEARCH

Part A - Organization

Access Noodletools. If you do not already have an account create one with your WMA email address.

Create a new project by clicking the Green New Project button in the upper right hand corner of the page. Title this project with your name and AP Research.

Part B - Learning to Read

First watch this video. Then go to Google Scholar and search for one of the topics you created questions for. Use the concepts from the video to answer the questions below.

1. List three articles that interested you.

2. Using the 3 pass approach evaluate each of the articles below. If your article does not make the cut to go to pass 2 or 3 then skip those sections.
    a. Article 1:
        i. Pass 1
            1. What is this paper about in one or two sentences?
            2. Should I read this paper more carefully?
            3. Does this paper relate to my research or learning goals?
        ii. Pass 2
            1. What are the most important findings?
            2. What do the figures and tables show?
            3. What conclusions do the authors draw?
            4. Are there any terms or concepts I don't understand?
        iii. Pass 3
            1. Could I explain this research to someone else in detail?
            2. Do I understand how the researchers got their results?
            3. Are there any weaknesses in their methods or reasoning?
            4. Could I replicate this study if I needed to?
    b. Article 2:
        i. Pass 1
            1. What is this paper about in one or two sentences?
            2. Should I read this paper more carefully?
            3. Does this paper relate to my research or learning goals?
        ii. Pass 2
            1. What are the most important findings?
            2. What do the figures and tables show?
            3. What conclusions do the authors draw?
            4. Are there any terms or concepts I don't understand?
        iii. Pass 3
            1. Could I explain this research to someone else in detail?
            2. Do I understand how the researchers got their results?
            3. Are there any weaknesses in their methods or reasoning?
            4. Could I replicate this study if I needed to?
    c. Article 3:
        i. Pass 1
            1. What is this paper about in one or two sentences?
            2. Should I read this paper more carefully?
            3. Does this paper relate to my research or learning goals?
        ii. Pass 2
            1. What are the most important findings?
            2. What do the figures and tables show?
            3. What conclusions do the authors draw?
            4. Are there any terms or concepts I don't understand?
        iii. Pass 3

    1. Could I explain this research to someone else in detail?
    2. Do I understand how the researchers got their results?
    3. Are there any weaknesses in their methods or reasoning?
    4. Could I replicate this study if I needed to?

3. If your article makes it past the third reading and you think it will be useful to your future research, add it to your Noodletools project!