May 28, 2026

Dear Parent or Guardian of Rising AP Capstone Research Student:

In AP Research, students design and conduct their own research studies; write an academic paper equivalent to an undergraduate thesis; and present and defend their research. The Academic Paper of 4,000-5,000 words and the Individual Presentation and Oral Defense comprise the AP Research Exam. Most of the research and writing must be done outside of class.

Please see the attached summer assignment that is due on Canvas by Sunday, August 16, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. I will provide submission instructions to students on August 10, the first day of school. Please read and review the assignment and suggested work schedule with your student to facilitate completion, and complete and return the bottom portion of this letter to me by May 28th, to acknowledge receipt. Students may drop off the receipt in my room in M1 or email it to me.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at 754-323-1650 or via email at *Gonzalo.laverde@browardschools.com*

Sincerely,

Paul Mathos and
Gonzalo Laverde M.Ed
AP Capstone Research/AP Capstone Seminar/ AP World History
Social Studies Dept. Chair
Nova High School

Rising AP Capstone Research Parent Letter & Summer Assignment Receipt

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

AP Research Summer Assignment 2026-27

Gonzalo Laverde

Assigned May 18, 2026

You can type directly into this document. Do not procrastinate.

Student Name:

In AP Research, you are expected to contribute to the conversation in your chosen field of study. You can accomplish this in a variety of ways, including the following:

1. Creating new research
2. Building on or improving new research
3. Revealing a new perspective in a field or discipline.

Directions: Complete the assignments below.

Part I: Orientation to AP Research

This assignment will orient you to the nature and responsibilities of research and provide opportunities to explore your research topic. Type all responses for Part I in Times New Roman, Size 12 directly in this document. **This assignment is due on Canvas by Sunday, August 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** Your AP Research teacher will provide submission instructions the first day of school.

Task A - Read the AP Research course overview at: https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-research-course-overview.pdf?course=ap-research

Write a five-sentence paragraph on your understanding of the course and its two Performance Task requirements that comprise the AP Exam.

Task B - 1) Visit the AP Research Exam information page at: https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/exam

Read one high-scoring sample academic paper along with the rubric and scoring commentary. Write a five-sentence synopsis of the academic paper, including purpose(s) for the research, methods used, results, and conclusions reached by the researchers. Label the synopsis by the year and title of the paper (e.g., 2017 “Big Hero Six”).

Part II Narrowing Down your topic

Task A: Generating a Topic

Read the following books, or listen to the following podcast, and make a list of possible topics you may be interested in researching:

1. Big Data by Viktor Mayer-Schonberger, and Kenneth Cukier
2. Invisible Women by Caroline Criado Perez
3. When to Rob a Bank by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dumber
4. The Alignment Problem by Brian Christian

Or listen to one episode form the following podcasts or 5 episodes from one podcast:

5. Freakonomics Radio
6. Data Skeptic
7. Women in Data Science
8. More or Less: Behind the Stats
9. The Fix Podcast

Task B: Brainstorming a Possible Topic

a. Research possible topics you are interested in pursuing for your AP Research Academic Paper (4,000-5,000 words). Write down three to five possible topics.
b. Choose one of the issues you listed that you consider the one topic you may want to research. What is a current issue you are interested in?
c. Why are you interested in this issue?
d. Does this issue have more than one perspective you would like to examine? If so, what are the perspectives? Provide details about how each perspective relates to the topic.
e. What are your own personal feelings on this issue? Explain why you feel this way.

Task C: Researching Your Potential Topic

To have a better understanding of your potential topic, you need to understand and evaluate the research already completed on it. You need to access EBSCO and other databases, including those you used in AP Seminar, to find out what research has already been conducted on your potential topic.

Analyze FIVE (5) research studies completed on your potential topic. Write a synopsis of the research, including purpose(s) for the research, methods used, results, and conclusions reached by the researchers. Remember to use only peer-reviewed research studies. Use American Psychological Association (APA) Style; resources on APA are available at the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Study #1 - Provide an APA citation for the study and a link to an online version of the study.
Synopsis (Write at least a five-sentence paragraph in your own words).

Study #2 Provide an APA citation for the study and a link to an online version of the study.
Synopsis (Write at least a five-sentence paragraph in your own words).

Study #3 Provide an APA citation for the study and a link to an online version of the study.
Synopsis (Write at least a five-sentence paragraph in your own words).

Study #4 Provide an APA citation for the study and a link to an online version of the study.
Synopsis (Write at least a five-sentence paragraph in your own words).

Study #5 Provide an APA citation for the study and a link to an online version of the study.
Synopsis (Write at least a five-sentence paragraph in your own words).

Task D - Inquiry Proposal Form

Please note: This is a preliminary form that is subject to change at the beginning of the school year. Complete it for planning purposes only.

1. Research question (with associated project goals if applicable). Include revised question, if needed.

2. Reasons for choosing the topic of interest and research question/project goal.

3. Data or information that will have to be collected to answer the research question/address the project goal.

4. Brief list of possible sources of information to discuss during the introduction/review of literature section of the paper. Be prepared to discuss each source and why you deem it important to include. Provide an APA citation for each study in the space below.

5. Chosen or developed research method to collect and analyze the above data/information. Consult NOTES Creswell Chapters 8, 9, and 10. These are found at: https://www.quia.com/pages/ewatts57/page2

6. Equipment or resources needed to collect data or information.

7. Anticipated challenges to implementing the chosen research method (to collect and analyze data or to pursuing research methods appropriate to a paper that supports a performance/exhibit/product).

8. Expected approvals needed and from where (Institutional Review Board (IRB) for research involving human subjects, etc.)

9. Teacher's Feedback (AP Research teacher completes this item.)

10. Teacher's Approval (Signature)_____

Part III: Indiana University Plagiarism Tutorials and Test

Found at: https://plagiarism.iu.edu/certificationTests/index.html

Take time to go through the tutorials. You must pass the Certification Test with at least an 80%, and submit your certificate as a PDF under Canvas Assignments by **Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.** per your AP Research teacher's instructions the first day of school. You cannot begin your research study until you pass the test with at least an 80%.

If you have questions on this assignment during the summer, email Mr. Laverde at Gonzalo.laverde@browardschools.com