AP Language/AP Research Combo Course

Summer Assignment 2026

#1 AP Language – New York Times Summer Reading Contest

Due by the end of the contest – August 14th

You will complete one assignment for AP Language by September. This course is a designed to be a comprehensive study of Language and Rhetoric. As such, a core component to the course is argumentation. The summer assignment is designed to acquaint you with sample topics/issues that are present in our world today. You have choice in the assignment to explore topics of interest.

Submit *three* written responses from the NY Times Summer Reading Contest and share them with me by the end of the contest (see attachment below for directions). The entries must be made over the course of 3 **separate** weeks (one submission per week). Note: it is optional to actually submit to the contest but you must submit to *me.*

****The contest is open from June 5th – August 14th **** Good luck 😊

- **The NYT contest submissions must be shared with me each week you do them. Share them through Office 365/One Drive/email.**
- Optional: If you choose to submit to the contest (which I hope you do!), here is an additional requirement from NYT:
  Students must compose written submissions, from start to finish, in a Google Doc and share it with us at studentchallenges@nytimes.com. Google Docs provide a version history, which will help us see your brain at work. We care about the writing process.
- email: tcintorino@seaford.k12.ny.us or share via One Drive: tcintorino

*Note: You have free access to NY Times through ClassLink and our HS Library Databases.

For access through ClassLink:

- Go to www.seaford.k12.ny.us
- Click ClassLink
- Login if prompted
- Click the High School Library folder
- Click the New York Times icon

For access through the Databases:

- Go to www.seaford.k12.ny.us
- Select High School from the Schools drop down menu
- Select Departments
- Select Library Media Center
- Click Login for Full Access (log in using your regular log in credentials)
- Enter the Passkey: **SHSLIBRARY2026**
- Click Database List A-Z
- Locate New York Times Online alphabetically & click on it
- Note the username and remote password info to log in

If you have any questions regarding your assignments, please email Mrs. Cintorino.

New York Times Summer Reading Contest

Due by the end of the contest – August 14th

Summer Reading Contest

JUNE 5-AUG. 14, 2026

Contest



Every Friday starting on June 5, we'll post a fresh version of the question, "What got your attention in The Times this week?"

Students can then choose any New York Times article, essay, image, graph, video or podcast episode that sparks their interest and write a short response or make a short video telling us why. At the end of the week, judges from the Times newsroom will pick their favorites and we'll publish the winners.

How It Works



Choose any Times article, essay, image, graph, video or podcast episode published in 2026.



Tell us why you chose your piece ...



... in an essay of up to 1,500 characters (about 250 words)...



... OR a video of up to 90 seconds.

Contest Rules

- The contest is open to students ages 13 to 19 in middle or high school anywhere in the world.
- You can choose anything you like that was published in the print paper or on NYTimes.com in 2026.
- You can participate any or every week, but we only allow one submission per person per week.
- Written responses must be 1,500 characters (about 250 words) or fewer; video responses must be 90 seconds or fewer.
- Provide the complete URL or headline of the article you choose in your response.
- Deadline: Every Friday from June 12 to Aug. 14, 2026, at 9 a.m. Eastern.

Visit the contest page to see the full guidelines and submit.

The New York Times Learning Network

#2 AP Capstone Research Summer Assignment

AP Research allows you to pursue ANY topic of interest. Besides researching what is already known about the topic, you will design a study that explores something *new* with the goal of adding to the information in the field. Are you passionate about the environment? Are you an avid Disney fan? Are you curious about culture? Do you have a passion for shopping? Do you question our role in societal issues? Have you wondered about life in space? Whatever your interest, there is a potential Research study for you next year! The goal of this assignment is to help you explore what your interests are and what is currently in the "chatter" of the world. This will also help you brainstorm potential ideas for your AP Research project. Because you will spend the year working on it, it should be about a topic that you are interested in.

Part 1: Personal Interest Inquiry

The following questions are designed to get to know you and your personal interests.

Question	Answer
1. If you were going to invest money, what product/company/idea would you invest in and why?	
2. What could you spend hours watching videos of (aka what do you "research" for fun?)? Explain why.	
3. What do you do in your free time? Explain why.	
4. What invention do you think was most influential (positively or negatively) to modern society? Why?	
5. What 3 apps on your phone do you access the most? List them in order of use and explain why? (For example, do you use them for gathering information, entertainment, socializing, etc.?).	

6. If you could work for/with any celebrity (athlete, musician, model, activist, etc.), who would it be? Explain why.	
7. What is your favorite book? Movie? Song? Pick one and answer why?	
8. What is your dream job or college major (assuming any choice pays well)? Explain why.	
9. What hobby/sport/activity do you participate in? Why do you value it?	
10. What do you find yourself continually checking the updates of (example: news, celebrity gossip, sports stats, etc.). Why?	

Part 2: Current Topic "Chatter"

For this section, there will be questions that will require you to do a little "surfing" on several sites to answer. Please go to NPR, JStor Daily, and CNN10 to search for the current "chatter" about these issues. You may also use information from your AP Language NYTimes contest reading to answer some of them. Your answers can be bullet-pointed phrases. Once complete, rank the topic ideas in order 1-8 (1 being most interesting to you and 8 being least) in the 3rd column.

Question	Answer	Rank
1. What topics related to art or culture (music, literature, film, theater, etc.) interest you?		
2. What topics related to the economy or business – U.S. or another country - interest you (for example, fast fashion's impact on the economy or employer shortage)?		
3. What do you think is the most important political issue in the U.S. OR Globally today (for example: alternative energy, food insecurities, Global Warming, wars or gun control)? Explain why.		
4. What are some health/medical related topics that interest you (for example, Obesity or Cancer)?		
5. Which kind of science (Physical, Earth or Life) most interests you? What are some topics in that field?		
6. What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology that interest you (for example, AI or cybersecurity)? Explain why.		

7. If you could work on fixing one thing in Education, what would that be? Why?		
8. If you could fix one thing about the world, what would it be? Why?		

Part 3: Topics

Use the completed interest inventories you completed to brainstorm 2 possible topics to investigate for your research project.

Topic 1:
_____
_____

Topic 2:
_____
_____

Part 4: Ted Talk

Choose a Ted Talk to watch and analyze:
Search for a Ted Talk that discusses a topic you find interesting (This MUST be either 1 of the 2 topics from Part 3 OR anything that sparked interest in Parts 1 & 2). Be sure to provide the link, title & speaker.

For the Ted Talk, complete the attached sheet.

Ted Talk: As you watch each Ted Talk, consider how the speaker constructs his or her argument and complete the worksheet.	
Thesis Statement: Identify the speaker's thesis.	
Speaker: What do you know about the speaker? How does he or she establish his or her credibility?	

Audience: What does the speaker assume about the audience's values? How is the speaker establishing a relationship with the audience?	
Claims and Evidence: What claims does the speaker make? What evidence supports the speaker's claims? How does the speaker connect the claims to the thesis?	
Purpose: What is the speaker's intention in delivering this speech? Does the speaker achieve his or her purpose?	
Reflection: What did you gain from watching this video? What new insights into the topic did you receive?	