

AP Research Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Research! As the second course in the AP Capstone sequence, this class will allow you to deeply explore a topic of interest to you. Once you settle on a topic, you will develop a research question and embark on a year-long investigation examining your question through research and writing.

Your assignment for the summer has two components:

STEP 1: Get to know yourself and your own interests.

You will need to keep a journal all year to mark your progress, reflect on the process, and offer authentication for College Board when you reach the end of the year. Purchase a composition book, and begin by tracking your summer progress there in the opening pages. You will use this notebook for future exercises throughout the year.

Answer the following questions as a journaling exercise. If you don't have much to offer yet, do some surface research on the subject by reading credible news sources.

Questions
What topics related to art or culture interest you?
What topics related to the economy interest you?
What topics related to the business world interest you?
What topics related to politics (either in the US or abroad) interest you?
What historical topics interest you that are related to events unfolding today?
What topics related to health or medicine interest you?
What topics related to science interest you?
What topics related to technology interest you?
What topics related to education interest you?
What is a problem you would like to see solved?
What is something you don't understand but would like it to be explained to you?
What is something you are curious about that is not in any of your answers above?

STEP 2: Explore a topic (or two) of your choosing.

- a. Looking back at your reflections in part one of this assignment, begin to learn more about the topics that most interest you.
- b. Choose 2-3 topics on your list that you'd like to know more about. Highlight them in your journal. Then spend time this summer reading critically, posing questions, and identifying subtopics within the larger idea.
- c. **Keep further notes about these topics in your research journal** to record what you learn, your reflections, and your connections to further possibilities for research studies. (Tips on keeping research journals are found below.)
- d. You must have **FIVE sources**, but a book of more than 200 pages will count as two sources. (See below for ideas of sources.)

Research Journal Questions

- For each source, include the MLA citation.
- What interested you about this source?
- What did you learn?
- How did this source connect to a personal interest or inquiry?
- What are possible research topics related to this source?

Research Suggestions (not an exhaustive list)

You may use a variety of sources for your exploration including but not limited to podcasts, documentary films, in depth newspaper and magazine articles, peer reviewed academic journal articles, museum exhibits, historic sites, botanical gardens, state and national parks, plays, radio broadcasts, interviews with subject experts (i.e. a scientist or researcher, a historian, a public official, etc.), archives, and books. You may also incorporate your exploration into any summer vacations you attend this summer. (For example, if you visit a historical site, you can reflect on that visit in your journal if it relates to any of your topics of interest.)

Statistics/Data/Tech

The Signal and the Noise by Nate Silver

Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are by Seth Stephens

Invisible Women by Caroline Criado-Perez

More than a Glitch- Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech by Meredith Broussard

Psychology/Linguistics

Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman

Superforecasting by Philip Tetlock

Drunk Tank Pink by Adam Alter

Nabokov's Favorite Word is Mauve by Ben Blatt

Matter by Sam Sommers

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Tales by Oliver Sacks

Whistling Vivaldi by Claude Steele

Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions by Dan Ariely
Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter? by Heath Fogg Davis
Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know by Adam Grant
Saving Time
Life Beyond the Clock by Jenny Odell

Politics/History/Sociology/Economics

Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X Kendi
The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone, by Heather McGhee
Freakonomics by Steven Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner
Think Like a Freak by Steven Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner
Poverty by America by Matt Desmond
Young and Restless – Girls who sparked America's Revolution by Mattie Kahn
Radium Girls: the Dark History of America's Shining Women-Kate Moore
The League: How Five Rivals Created the NFL and Launched a Sports Empire by John Eisenberg
Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
One Day by Gene Weingarten
How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith
Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City by Andrea Elliot
Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein
Reclaiming our Students by Hannah Beach
After The Last Border by Jessica Goudeau
The Teachers: A Year Inside America's Most Vulnerable Profession by Alexandra Robbins

Environment:

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law by Mary Roach
Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World by Henry Graber
Wild Animals I Have Known by Ernest Thompson Seton
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Health

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser
Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis and the People Who Pay the Price by Jonathan Cohn
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver
The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan
How to Feed the World by Vaclav Smil

If you have any questions about the summer assignments, contact Ms. Mitchell.
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