

TO: 2018-2019 AP Research Students

As you probably know, AP Research is the second course in the AP Capstone program (AP Seminar is a prerequisite course); this course will help you to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea that you are interested in. You will design, plan, and implement a year-long investigation to address your research question. Through this inquiry, you will further the skills you acquired in AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. The AP Research exam score consists of an Academic Paper (AP) of approximately 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a Presentation with an Oral Defense (POD). Therefore, it is expected that students taking AP Research register for the AP exam.

Attached is a summer homework packet, which will be due the **third day** of AP Research class in August. My recommendation is that you look over the topics that you are interested in so you can truly enjoy the research process. On the next page you will find some questions that can help refine your research topic. Keep this in mind during your initial explorations of your topics as it may help determine which research topic will be most appropriate to take the next steps with.

I am looking forward to seeing you in AP Research in August.

AP RESEARCH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT ON IDEAS FOR MY RESEARCH

Select TWO topics on which you might be interested in writing your research paper. For each topic, find a minimum of four scholar sources discussing the topic in question and write a 5-10 sentence summary of the information presented. At least three of the four sources must be from an academic database, while the other may be credible internet sources. Use APA citations for your sources (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>).

You will turn this assignment the THIRD DAY (Wednesday) of your AP Research class, and it will count as a major grade. You will do an informal 5-10 minute presentation (minor grade) explaining your initial ideas for your research project.

This assignment must be typed and will be uploaded to turnitin.com. Here is a summary assignment:

- Identify 2 topics
- Find 4 sources for **each** topic, one from an academic database per topic
- Cite each source (**APA format**)
- Summarize each source in 5-10 sentences

Below are some questions that can eventually help refine your research topic. Keep this in mind during your initial explorations of your topics as it may help determine which research topic will be most appropriate to take the next steps with.

Self-Evaluation of Research Question

1. Does the question deal with a topic or issue that interests me enough to spark my own thoughts and opinions?
2. Is the topic “an academic or real-world problem, question, or issue”?
3. Can the topic be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses?
4. Is the question easily and fully researchable?
5. What type of information do I need to answer the research question?
For example, the research question, "What impact has deregulation had on commercial airline safety?," will require certain types of information:
 - o Statistics on airline crashes before and after
 - o Statistics on other safety problems before and after
 - o Information about maintenance practices before and after
 - o Information about government safety requirements before and after
6. Is the scope of this information reasonable (e.g., can I accomplish this task in the allotted time and come to a solution, conclusion or resolution?)
7. Given the type and scope of the information that I need, is my question too broad, too narrow or okay?
8. What sources will be able to provide the information I need to answer my research question (journals, books, Internet, government documents, people)?
9. Can I access these sources?
10. Given my answers to the above questions, do I have a good-quality research question that I actually will be able to answer by doing research?