

Welcome to AP Research 2020/21!

Summer Assignment/Fall Due Date: Thursday/Friday, September 10/11

Google Classroom: hdvm5ys

Remind: researchwh

We are so excited that you have chosen to take the next step in the Capstone journey, and we are looking forward to taking it with you! The goal of having summer work is to begin exploring research topics. To be clear, we do not expect you to have a topic firmly decided on the first day of class. However, the closer you are to identifying a topic or area of study, the more time you will have to actually work on your project next year.

What is AP Research? In AP Research you will deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. It is very important that you chose something that you are interested in and care about because you will spend the majority of the year with this topic.

In AP Seminar you synthesized research that previously existed in order to create an argument. In AP Research you will conduct the research to add to the body of knowledge on your topic. The topic is entirely of your choosing. You will design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question that you develop in that topic. You will ultimately want to find a mentor in your topic area to help guide and educate you in your particular field.

This summer, as you explore topic areas, you may want to start thinking about connections that you have for possible mentors. There is not an exam in AP Research. An academic paper of 4,000- 5,000 words is 75% of your score, and a 15-20 minute presentation is 25%. The more detailed course overview is here.

[AP Research Course Overview Page](#)

Summer Assignment



You will now begin the initial phase of your research project. This phase requires you to read critically, pose questions, and identify issues that compel you. The most important question in this phase is: What do I want to know, learn, or understand? This can be ANYTHING. You might want to start by brainstorming a list of things that you are fascinated by or obsessed with (Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and Beaker), even if you don't think right now that they would make a good research topic.

1. Pre-Work

Read the table: "Focus, Scope, Value, Feasibility," (at the end of this document) concentrate first on the six disciplines listed in the first column. Are you drawn to one or two in particular?

2. Question and Explore

1. Find three (3) subjects for exploration. They do not have to be in different disciplines, but they can be.
2. Look for 3 sources that relate to each of your three subjects
 - a. One academic journal
 - b. Two free choices- including but not limited to podcasts, documentary films, newspaper and magazine articles, museum exhibits, historic sites, state and national parks, places of worship, concerts, plays, religious ceremonies, radio broadcasts, interviews with experts, archives and books. (book of at least 200 pages, that you have read fully, will count as 2 sources.)
3. You will create a **reflective journal entry** (*originally it was going to be annotated bibs, but now we are going with journal entries*) for each source (See detailed instructions below). The most important objective here is to explore sources on topics that interest you; to keep track of what you learned and then be able to eventually use your reflections to make possible research connections.

This assignment should be typed and will count as the first entry into your PREP Journal as part of your Process and Reflection Portfolio that is required by the College Board. It will be ONE document, but please start each source at the top of a new page. This assignment will be posted in Google Classroom. Our tentative due date is **Thursday/Friday, September 10/11**.

Detailed Instructions for the Journal Entries (3x3 minimum)

For each source, include:

- Title or name of the source
- Type of source
- URL or location if applicable
- Date of creation or publication if applicable
- Description and keywords
 - a. What topics or issues were explored in the source? ○
 - b. What is the context of this source?
 - c. What are some keywords you could use to find additional info on this topic?
 - d. You may also include other modes of documentation such as photos, video or audio as long as YOU produce the documentation.
- Your reflections
 - a. What interested you about this source?
 - b. What did you learn?
 - c. What questions do you have?
 - d. How is this source connected to a personal area of interest or inquiry?
- What are possible research topics related to this source?
- Ambitious? Did you read the initial document? Was that a little scary? Did you want to get started and get ahead of the game? THEN FIND ADDITIONAL SOURCES! For each additional source, provide the information that would be required to secure this as a potential source in the future.

Be thorough, thoughtful and enjoy the assignment as well as the summer!

Email us if you run into any problems or have questions!

Ms. Suehiro and Ms. Lanzas
AP Capstone Teachers

FOCUS, SCOPE, VALUE, FEASIBILITY

Concept	Description	Reflection Questions (You may additionally want to address a few of these in your journal entries)	Additional Work (Recommended to get a good jump on Semester 1 workload)
FOCUS Research Discipline and Topic	Discipline: Lens or area of focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art ● History ● Humanities ● Hard Sciences ● Social Sciences ● Mathematics Topic: Specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school? ● What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research? ● What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gather 10 research articles in the discipline of your interest. You can use these articles to help inform the structure and style of your academic paper. This will remove some of your confusion when you begin composing your academic paper. <i>*Compile these sources in an annotated bibliography that you will reference throughout the year.</i>
SCOPE Depth and Size of your Research Project	Context: The specific setting of your research Variables: The items, people, situations, issues, concepts being studied and/or manipulated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What specific things will you study? People? Animals? Things? Concepts? Theories? ● How will you work with the people/animals/things/concepts/theories that you will research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 10 research articles that work with similar variables to your research interest. You can use these articles to help inform your research method that you will construct in the course. <i>*Compile these sources in an annotated bibliography that you will reference throughout the year.</i>
VALUE Contribution to the Body of Knowledge	The value of your research is determined by how your contribution enhances what is already known about the topic. You are expected to either add the current conversation of a discipline or use multiple discipline conversations to create new knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will your research change the way we currently see the topic? ● How will your research benefit society or your discipline of study? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 10 current discussions about your topic. Look for contrasting views about the topic. You will be able to use this content for your literature review or discussion of your topic. This will help you locate the need for your project. <i>*Compile these sources in an annotated bibliography that you will reference throughout the year.</i>
FEASIBILITY 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 actual research project: December and January.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research? ● How long will your research take? ● Do you have access to the things you need for research? ● Who can help you with your research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make contact with an adult who is skilled in your topic. Talk with them and ask if they would be interested in supporting you during your research process. The College Board requires you to have an Expert Advisor. Building a professional relationship with someone invested in your discipline will strengthen your academic paper.