

AP Research Summer Work

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Assignment 1: Interest Inventory

The goal of this assignment is to brainstorm ideas for your AP Research project. Because you will spend two semesters working on it, it should be about a topic that you are interested in. Complete the interest inventory before continuing with the next assignments.

Part I: *For this section, do a little research on NPR, Ebsco, Google Scholar, another reliable database, or consider topics you learned about in your other classes. Your answers can be bullet-pointed phrases.*

Question	Answer
Look up topics related to art or culture (music, literature, film, theater, etc.). What interests you?	
Look up topics related to the economy – U.S. or another country. What interests you?	
Look up topics related to the business world. What interests you?	
What are some current political issues in the U.S.?	
What are some current political issues globally?	
What are some historical topics that interest you?	
What historical topics relate to a current issue today?	

What are some health/medical related topics that interest you?	
Which kind of science most interests you? What are some topics in that field?	
What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology?	
What place interests you?	
What is your favorite book? Movie? Why?	
What career are you considering pursuing?	
In what ways do people surprise you?	
What are some current issues in education?	
Spend one day observing as you go about your day (brush your teeth, drive around, walk, shop, interact, travel, etc.) What are some interesting	

things you notice? What do you wonder? What surprises you?	
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Part II: *For this section, just answer the question. These can come from you or from your topic exploration in Part I, but they don't have to.*

Question	Answer
What fascinates you?	
What is something you are curious about?	
What is a problem you would like to see solved?	
What is a topic you are passionate about?	
What prediction can you make about the future?	
What is something you would like to create?	
What is something you don't understand but would you like explained?	

Assignment 2: Annotated bibliographies

Use the interest inventory to brainstorm 2 possible topics to investigate for your research project.

Topic 1: _____

Topic 2: _____

Go and find 1 scholarly OR relatively credible sources on each of your topics. Do **two annotated bibliographies** in MLA format over each of the two research topics (so a total of 2). (See the end of the summer assignment)

Assignment 3: Research questions (See Research Question Workshop at end of packet)

Use the interest inventory and the annotated bibliographies to write 1 research question for each topic. After you write the initial question, do the Workshop prompt at the end of the packet to get to a new and better question, and then write that one as well.

Topic 1: _____

Question	
My new, better, and REVISED QUESTION after doing workshop prompt	

Topic 2: _____

Question	
My new, better, and REVISED QUESTION after doing workshop prompt	

Assignment 4: Research methods brainstorm (See Methods in a Nutshell sheet I gave out in class)

For each research question, write what you would need to know to answer the question and whether that involves quantitative or qualitative data or both. If you can, look at your Methods in a Nutshell sheet to identify potential methods you might implement.

Topic 1: _____

	What You Need to Know	Quantitative/Qualitative/Both
My new, better, and revised Question		

Topic 2: _____

	What You Need to Know	Quantitative/Qualitative/Both
My new, better, and revised Question		

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations for books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, which we call the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to document the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

We will be using annotated bibliographies because it will allow me to check the kinds of sources that you are currently evaluating, and it will help you document your thoughts on sources that may end up being useful for you. The purpose of the annotations is to be descriptive and critical. These annotations will save you time in the future because they require you to document the relevance and credibility of the authors and the arguments, evaluate the arguments, and discuss multiple perspectives, which are all tasks that you must accomplish in the Academic Paper.

What are the Steps for Crafting an Initial Annotated Bibliography?

Step 1: Locate a good number (about 10) of scholarly journal articles that pertain to your potential research question. You should create citations for these articles right when you access them because it will save you time down the road.

Step 2: After you create the citations, pick about five of the journal articles to read and analyze. When trying to pick the articles that you want to read and analyze, “mine” the articles for key phrases and messages that interest you. **When mining for information, it is best to read the first two pages of an article and the last two pages (right before the reference section) to get a good idea about the major points of the study.** You should try to pick a few that offer various perspectives on your topic.

Step 3: Read and analyze the five journal articles that you have chosen, and write a 150-200 word annotation underneath the citations that you created for each source. Your annotation is essentially a summary that should attempt to do the following:

- A. Evaluate the authority and background of the author.
- B. Describe who the author’s intended audience is for the article.
- C. Compare or contrast the article to other articles on your annotated bibliography.
- D. Explain how this article impacts your research going forward.

Annotated bibliographies are meant to help you track the progress of your research. They are also very helpful when it is time for you to really start reviewing the literature of your topic. With this assignment, we are beginning the process of “identifying the gap in the knowledge” for your topic. As you read these sources and create annotations, you may find debates in the field or questions that have yet to be answered. This can help you decide where you want to look next.

Template for Crafting the Annotation

The author(s) of this article (insert names here) published this article in (enter year here) with the intent of informing (enter intended audience here) about (enter a short description of what the article focuses on here). The author(s) is credible and has authority because (describe the authors background here). The author(s) use _____ to provide evidence for _____. Additionally, the authors provide explanations for the effects of _____. The authors claim _____. Furthermore, the authors recommend _____. Questions arising from this article are _____ and _____. The authors' conclusion (or process) is of interest to me in my research on (enter your research topic here) because _____.

This is merely a template that can help you create annotations for the annotated bibliography. You do not have to fill in something for every blank, but you will be making your task easier if you try to create descriptive annotations for yourself. Remember to document whether or not you think the source will be useful to you in your research. If you believe it is useful, document why you think it is useful and if you think it will change the shape of your research. You should also document the type of method the author uses in their study.

Example of an Entry on an Annotated Bibliography

Goldschneider, F. K., Waite, L. J., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review*, 51(4), 541-554. **(This citation is in APA Format because the field is Sociology.)**

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the national Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams, cited below, shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

Research Question Workshop

Section A: Write a research question in 1. Evaluate and revise using questions 2-4.

1. Write your research question:

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2. Go through the following criteria of an effective research question. Take notes over each.

Is this something you are interested in?	
Context? Is it a real-world issue/problem? What is it?	
What type of information is needed to address the question? Is it researchable?	
Is it too broad or too narrow?	

3. Revise your question based on your above notes into a NEW and BETTER one:

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4. Go through the criteria of an effective research question again. Revise again as necessary or try a new topic/question.