

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: AP RESEARCH

Dear Researcher,

I must first and foremost congratulate you on your interest in challenging yourself with the AP Capstone program. The skills that you have and will continue to acquire due to the Capstone program are paramount in your post-high school success. So, to your dedication, I salute you!

The following summer work has been created after much consideration and discussion with other AP Research colleagues. I am NOT about busy work, but there are some concepts and items that you need to establish for yourself prior to starting AP Research. Know that you will be asked to dig deep once you begin in the fall, so please start now.

All work will be due on the first Monday that we return to school. Only work turned in on time will be accepted.

I look forward to working with you very soon. I will be checking my email all summer, so feel free to contact me if you feel concerned, bewildered, overwhelmed, confused, frustrated, or any combination of the previously listed.

Best Wishes,

Jarred Shaw

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TASK 1: SUMMER READING REFLECTIONS

Complete the following reflections prior to the start of AP Research. These reflections are purposefully driven to help you make the jump from AP Seminar to AP Research. Class begins in the fall, you will add them to your PREP (Process and Reflection Portfolio), a tool required by College Board that will help you stay organized in this year-long process. Please include the question when providing your responses. **Responses should be at minimum a paragraph per question and should exhibit your ability to provide supporting textual and experiential evidence as well as reflective and perceptive discussion.**

Text: Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2018). Practical Research: Planning and Design. (12th ed.). New York: Pearson.

[https://pcefet.com/common/library/books/51/2590_%5BPaul D. Leedy, Jeanne Ellis Ormrod%5D Practical Res\(b-ok.org\).pdf](https://pcefet.com/common/library/books/51/2590_%5BPaul%20D.%20Leedy,%20Jeanne%20Ellis%20Ormrod%5D%20Practical%20Research%20(b-ok.org).pdf)

| Title of Reading | Pages | Reflections |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| "What Research is Not" | 19-20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What surprised you in this section? Why?• According to this section, how is AP Seminar different from AP Research? |
| "What Research is" | 20-21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What part of this section interests you? Why? |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to this section, how is AP Research an extension of AP Seminar? |
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TASK 2: FINDING AN AREA OF INTEREST FOR RESEARCH

Similarly to AP Seminar, College Board wants you to present your AP Research academic paper with a leading question; however, in AP Research this question is called a Research Question (RQ). The goal of this part of the assignment is to brainstorm ideas for your AP Research project. The following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research RQ. Remember, the topic you decide to work with must hold your interest for the entire year. Sit and reflect about your true interests for this course prior to completing these charts. Complete this interest inventory before continuing with the final task.

Part A: Think Holistically

For this section, do a little research on [NPR](#), [JStor Daily](#), [INSPIRE](#), another reliable database, or consider topics you learned about in your other classes. List at least 2-3 general areas of interest in each category. 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. that interest you? | |
| What are some current political issues globally that interest you? | |
| 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? | |
| What are some current issues in education? | |
| Spend one day observing as you go about your day (brush your teeth, drive around, | |

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| walk, shop, interact, travel, etc.) What are some interesting things you notice? What do you wonder? What surprises you? | |
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Part B: Think Introspectively

For this section, just answer the question. These can come from you or from your topic exploration in Part A, but they don't have to. Your answers should be in paragraph form.

| Question | Answer |
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| 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? | |
| In what ways do people surprise you? | |

Part C: Think Academically

For this section, focus even more specifically on the concepts that impact a well-developed and well-designed academic inquiry. Your answers should be in paragraph form. These can come from your topic exploration in Parts A and B, but they don't have to.

| Concept | Description | Reflections |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Discipline</i>: Lens or section of focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school? |
| Research Discipline and Topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art ○ History ○ Humanities ○ Hard Sciences ○ Social Sciences ○ Mathematics ● <i>Topic</i>: Specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research? ● What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest? |
| Scope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Context</i>: The | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What specific things would you like to study? People? Animals? |

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| <p>Depth and Size of Your Research Project</p> | <p>specific setting of your research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Variables</i>: The items/people/situations/issues/concepts being studied and/or manipulated. | <p>Things? Concepts? Theories?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How could you work with the people/animals/things/concepts/theories that you will research? |
| <p>Value</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The value of your research is determined by | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How would your research be relevant or interesting to society or within your discipline of study? |
| <p>Contribution to the Body of Knowledge</p> | <p>how your contribution enhances what is already known about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You are expected to either add to the current conversation of a discipline or use multiple discipline conversations to create new knowledge. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How could your research benefit society or your discipline of study? |
| <p>Feasibility</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time, money, and resources can play a major part in determining | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research? |
| <p>Possibility of Research</p> | <p>the ability to complete your research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You will have around two months to complete your research process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What factors will affect how long your research will take? ● How will you get access to the resources you need for your research? ● Who can help you with your research? |

TASK 3: EXPLORING POTENTIAL RESOURCES

Look back over your interest inventory in Task 2 and choose the two topics that you find most intriguing. What questions do you have about this topic?

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| <p>Topic 1</p> | |
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| Question 1 | |
| Question 2 | |
| Question 3 | |

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| Topic 2 | |
| Question 1 | |
| Question 2 | |
| Question 3 | |

Choose ONE of the topics above and search for some potential sources. Create a chart that contains permalinks and the title/author for each of your resources. You do NOT need to annotate these sources. **YOU WILL BE USING THESE SOURCES AS PART OF YOUR FIRST MAJOR CLASS ASSIGNMENT.**

| Resources to Gather | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 5 research articles in the discipline of your interest. (They can be on any topic within the discipline.) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find 5 current discussions about your topic. Look for contrasting views about the topic. At least 5 should be peer-reviewed/ scholarly articles. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify 2-3 adults who are skilled in your topic or discipline. Locate contact information to ask if they would be willing to support you as an expert advisor. | |

TASK 4: CREATING A RESEARCH QUESTION

Look back at the questions that you brainstormed in Task 3 and think about your interests and the potential resources available. Draft an initial research question to start off the semester. Your question will evolve and change, so this draft question doesn't need to be perfect. It just needs to be done.

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| Initial Research Question |
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