

## Summer Assignments: AP Research

Dear Researcher,

While the following assignment may seem intense, there are some concepts and items that you need to establish for yourself prior to starting AP Research. Some are concepts that should be considered while taking long walks on the beach, while sitting in the back of the car on a road trip, while trying to fall asleep at camp, while playing video games, or whatever summer activity enhances your life. Other concepts and ideas are explored through reading and watching and writing. Know that you will be asked to dig deep, so please start now.

All work beyond setting up the PREP and the Initial Research is due on 9.11.2021. Only work turned in on time to Google Classroom will be accepted. Be sure to join our class with code [dz6etuh](#). Please note, this does not mean that you should start the assignments on the tenth. We are giving you an opportunity to ask any final or burning questions that you may have about the polished version of your work before the due date.

If you feel concerned, bewildered, overwhelmed, confused, frustrated, or any combination of the previously listed, please know that you are probably not alone. As you learned in Seminar, your classmates are some of your best resources. Talk to them, bounce your ideas off each other.

Best Wishes, and see you in September!

Ms. G. and Mr. Hess

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### Initial Research (due on the First day of class 9.8.2021)

Take some time to sit and reflect on your true interests. What are you curious about? Start broadly: Choose **two** areas of focus: art, history, humanities, hard sciences, social sciences, or mathematics. Take a few days to look into these two areas. View a Ted Talk, read blogs, textbooks, magazine articles, check out a documentary, look at Wikipedia, podcasts, etc., to help you understand the larger, broader issues. To demonstrate that you've completed this section of the initial research, you will need to cite 3 sources that you used and determine 3 questions that you have or that were raised by each of those sources. There is a place on GoogleClassroom for this portion of the assignment.

Then, choose a topic (specific interest within a discipline) that you wish to investigate further. Before you do anything else, take a look at the reading strategies described on Harvard Library's website [Reading Habits](#).

## Summer Research Question Work Approximate Time Needed: 10 Hours

Similarly to AP Seminar, the 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 following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research RQ. Thinking about your proposed topics from the Initial Research section, complete the chart requirements and write your initial RQs on page three for each of these topics. Remember, the topics you decide to work with must hold your interest for the entire year. It's important to note that you may realize early in the fall that the RQs you thought you were going to address will not work for you. Also, please keep in mind that we are not necessarily here to solve problems, but to add to the scholarly conversation. *All parts of the summer work should go into the Reading Notes section of your PREP folder.*

**Creating Research Questions Part A:** Complete the following reflection questions to help you begin the process of creating your initial research questions.

Concept	Description	Reflection Questions to Answer (per topic)	Additional Work (not optional)
<p><b>Focus</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Research Discipline and Topic</b></p>	<p>Topic: Specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question</p>	<p>1. What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest (consider questions that were raised by your initial research)?</p>	<p>Gather 2 research articles per topic of your interest (you can use the ones you found in the Initial Research section if they are helpful to you).</p> <p>Remember that you need to know what is known already before you create a research question since your research must add to what is already known. 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.</p> <p><b>Initial Reading Activity: due 9/8/2021</b> These 4 articles need to be summarized. Utilize the strategies from Harvard's website to help you to complete the following reading activity which guides you toward brief summaries of all four and a detailed summary and analysis of two of the four articles (one per topic) <a href="#">worksheet for Initial Reading: First four papers</a>.</p>
<p><b>Scope</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Depth and Size of your Research Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context: The specific setting of your research</li> <li>Variables: The items/people/situations/issues/ concepts being studied and/or manipulated.</li> </ul>	<p>2. 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?</p> <p>3. What method, other than a survey, would be useful to gather data for this project? <b>Read Chapters 6-9 of your</b></p>	<p>Find 1 or more research/scholarly article(s) per topic that work with similar variables to your research interests.</p> <p>You can use these articles to help inform your <b>research method</b> that you will construct in the course.</p>

		<i>Practical Research</i> research book to help you answer this question.	
<p><b>Value</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Contribution to the Body of Knowledge</b></p>	<p>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 to the current conversation of a discipline or use multiple discipline conversations to create new knowledge.</p>	<p>4. Will your research change the way we currently see the topic? 5. How will your research benefit society or your discipline of study?</p>	<p>Find 1 or more current discussions about each of your topics. Look for contrasting views about the topic.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Feasibility</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Possibility of Research</b></p>	<p>Time, money, and resources can play a major part in determining the ability to complete your research.</p> <p>You will have around three months to complete your actual research project: November, December, and January.</p>	<p>6. What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research? 7. How long will your research take? 8. Do you have access to the things you need for research? 9. Who can help you with your research?</p>	<p>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. Make a list of a few adults in your life that could possibly help you with this endeavor.</p> <p>Review five student papers from past Research classes to get an understanding of what is possible. There's a lot that can be done, but realize that there's also a lot that can't be done (ie. you can't go to the moon). One place to find papers: <a href="https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/exam?course=ap-research">https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/exam?course=ap-research</a> Make a list of the titles of each of the papers you looked at.</p>

### Creating Research Questions Part B:

After answering the questions in the chart above, it's time to draft your research questions. For this assignment, **write two purpose statements/research questions.**

Before you write your question, it is **required** that you read Chapter 2, add notes on your reading to your "Weekly Work" section of your PREP folder by 9.10.2021.

**First Purpose statement/Research Question (fully fleshed out as per questions in above table):**

**Second Purpose statement/Research Question (fully fleshed out as per questions in above table)**

<b>Summer Reading Rubric Part A: Familiarizing yourself with the Body of Knowledge, and how you will fill a gap in that BOK within the context of the Capstone Research course</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Addressed requirements (Length and quality of writing)	Student addressed some of the questions in paragraph form. Lots of errors with regard to the standards of conventional English.	Students addressed many, but not all of the questions in paragraph form. Writing conformed to the accepted standards of scholarly writing/conventional English.	Student addressed each of the 9 questions in paragraph form per topic. Writing expertly conformed to accepted standards of scholarly writing/conventional English.
Textual and/or experiential evidence	Student's use of textual or experiential evidence was weak or nonexistent.	Student cited textual and experiential evidence that wasn't always relevant, or only relied on one kind of evidence.	Student cited relevant textual and experiential evidence in responses (when appropriate)
Depthful discussion	Student's response barely brushed the surface	Student's writing was adequate, but lacked sufficient detail and depth.	Student's writing was thorough and detailed.
<b>Part B: Crafting the Initial Primary and Backup Research Question</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Reading Notes (Chapter 2, and Chapters 6-9)	Student's notes were minimal and barely brushed the surface of what was discussed in reading (1 page).	Student's notes were acceptable, but lacked sufficient detail (2 pages).	Student's writing was thorough and detailed (at least 2 pages)
Primary Initial Research Question/Purpose Statement	Purpose statement may be/ may: -unrealistic/not feasible -lacking clarity -stated in a way that does not reflect an open mind -"simply a ruse for achieving self-enlightenment" (Leedy, Ormond 31). -"compare two sets of data" (Leedy, Ormond 31). -"simply calculating a correlation coefficient between two sets of data" (Leedy, Ormond 32). -"a problem that results in a yes-or-no answer" (Leedy, Ormond 32), or is in any other way too simplistic	Purpose statement is incompletely described, demonstrates that the student has only superficially contemplated feasibility and that the student is only superficially familiar with the current body of knowledge and how this question will add to that body of knowledge, is stated in a way that reflects an open mind about its solution, and has been edited.	Purpose statement is clearly and completely described, demonstrates that the student contemplated feasibility, demonstrates that the student is familiar with the current body of knowledge and how this question will add to that body of knowledge, is stated in a way that reflects an open mind about its solution, and has been ruthlessly edited.

<b>“Other work”, as applied to Primary Initial RQ</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
4 research articles that involve similar variables (aka parallel studies that can help inform your method)	Only two aligned articles found	Three somewhat aligned articles found, with incomplete explanation of where their methods can work, and where it needs to be modified	Four well-aligned articles found, with explanation of where their methods can work, and where it needs to be modified
Current and contrasting discussions of topic area found	One current discussion is summarized	Two current discussions which take contrasting viewpoints on the topic are found and summarized	Two current and high quality discussions which take contrasting viewpoints on the topic are found and summarized in detail
Expert Advisors/ Review of past research papers.	Expert Advisor’s pertinent expertise is not identified Lists less than 3 papers that were reviewed	One expert advisor is identified, along with skills/knowledge base that the Expert Advisor is an expert in Lists 3-4 papers that were reviewed	Two expert advisors are identified, along with skills/knowledge base that the Expert Advisors are an expert in List the titles of all five papers that were reviewed