

AP Research Summer Work 2023

Ms. Kelley Wilson

Course Description and Expectations:

As you probably know, AP Research is the second course in the AP Capstone program (AP Seminar is a pre-requisite course). AP Research requires that you 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 the AP Seminar course by employing ethical research practices while accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information.

Success in AP Research will require a good work ethic and a willingness and ability to work independently.

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).

It is expected that students taking AP Research register for the AP exam.

Summer Work

The summer assignment is to begin to keep a Reflection Journal to document your thinking as you engage in activities related to your AP Research Work. You will have a choice of activities to engage in over the summer and should have a minimum of three entries in your Reflection Journal.

Your Reflection Journal should be a Google Doc in your school Google account. Each entry should be dated and run approximately half a page. It should show your reflection and metacognitive thinking. You can keep them in one doc that is reverse dated such that new entries are on the top of the page. Go beyond a simple summary of the activity/article/documentary to make connections and queries. Evaluate the work of others and your progress and suggest next steps for yourself.

The Reflection Journal will be shared at the beginning of next school year and will be a Formative grade for the class.

You will also be giving a Summative presentation the first or second week of class to provide background information on the main topic you are considering choosing for the year.

Suggested Menu of Activities

The most important thing you can do this summer is think of a topic or topics you might like to explore next year!

- Brainstorm one or more topics you would like to explore for your AP Research project. At this point, it is ok if these topics are fairly broad. We will work on exploring them, narrowing them, and writing a good Research Question throughout the fall as we find and read journal articles on that topic.

Example: I might start by thinking I want to do something related to education. This is extremely broad. When visiting my younger cousin, I may notice that she is just learning to read and I may decide I want to focus my topic on that. In the fall, I will build up my knowledge on the topic and see what current scholarship is looking at relating to the topic while I also narrow my interest further and write a research question for my project.

Note: You are not limited to a debatable or social sciences topic. Almost any topic could work for AP Research provided that you can find scholarly research that relates to it and can think of original work you can do around it. As an example of just how wide open you can be with your ideas, I recently came across a sample paper that analyzes Instagram posts of cake slices.

- Ideas to help think of topics:

Take your observational skills and inquiring mind with you everywhere you go this summer. Read, view, and listen to explore your interests.

Use SIRS Issues Researcher in UDLibSearch (userid: udlibsearch pw: homeaccess) to browse topics.

Browse a university website to find a major or program you are interested in. See what research interests or publications are highlighted on the page or on the faculty's pages.

Browse journal articles -- you can go to publication search in Gale Academic OneFile Select in UDLibSearch (userid and pw above) or type in a few broad topics into a search to see what comes up. Some things to think about:

Will this topic hold your interest for the year?

What work is being done in your topic?

What work may not have been done?

How can you narrow your topic?

How can you build up your background knowledge and vocabulary related to your topic?

- Explore a database such as Academic OneFile Select in UDLibSearch (userid and pw above) or EbscoHost to find some specific journal articles related to the topic(s) you have identified.
- Look at past AP Research papers online. Glance at them for past topics and/or read at least one of interest to see what you will be doing next year.

College Board's Archive of Past Papers:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/sample-academic-papers-by-year>

Mr. Nelson's Hall of Fame Papers (scroll down):

<http://businessstatistics.us/ap-capstone-samples.html>

If you have questions at any time, please reach out to me on Schoology. I can walk you through using the databases or give you feedback on an idea if you wish.

See you in the fall. Wishing you both a restful AND productive summer!

—Ms. Wilson