

AP Research Summer Assignment – 2019

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Welcome to AP Research!

Congratulations on being the first Seahawks to pursue the Capstone diploma. I am thrilled to teach the second year of Capstone, and I look forward to working with you as you complete your culminating research project.

What is AP Research?

In AP Capstone Seminar, you used existing research to support an argument. In Research, you will again explore an academic topic of your choosing (problem, issue, idea); however, you will conduct your own research to add to the current body of knowledge on your chosen subject. This investigation is part of a yearlong research project on a topic of your choosing. The sooner you identify your research question, the more time you will have to complete your culminating project. (One of the more challenging tasks ahead is to secure a mentor who is knowledgeable in your chosen field of study.)

Summer Assignment:

This summer you will begin the **Question & Explore** phase of your research project that will culminate in a final paper and presentation at the end of the year. The Question & Explore phase requires you to read critically, pose questions, and identify issues you find compelling. **During this phase, you should explore a topic or topics that interest you and keep a journal of your reflections as you begin to answer the first, most important question: “What do I want to know, learn, or understand?”**

You may use a variety of sources for your exploration including but not limited to **podcasts, documentary films, newspaper and magazine articles, museum exhibits, historic sites, botanical gardens, state and national parks, places of worship, concerts, plays, religious ceremonies, radio broadcasts, interviews with subject experts** (i.e. a scientist or researcher, a historian, a public official, etc.), **archives**, and **books**. You may also incorporate your exploration into any planned summer vacations as long as you keep a detailed account of what you learned and your reflections on the experience. For example, while visiting another city, you may choose to visit a museum or historic site and reflect on that visit in your journal. (When you think about it, most experiences can be an opportunity to learn something new.)

The **primary objective** of your summer assignment is to explore sources on topics that genuinely interest you.

The **record** of your research is what you will turn in. It is a research journal, documenting which sources you found, your reflections, and possible research connections.

Please note: The goal of this assignment is for you to identify potential topics and approaching sources as a researcher. I DO NOT expect you to have a final selection of a topic by the first day of class. However, the closer you are to identifying a topic or area of interest, the more time you will have to actually work on your research project during the school year.

CRITERIA

You must have at least **THREE** sources. Any combination of sources is acceptable; your curiosity should be your guide!

Your summer assignment should be typed and will be the first entry in your PREP Journal (Process & Reflection Portfolio) which is required by the College Board. Your Summer Assignment should include these basic elements **for each source**:

- **Type of source** (newspaper/magazine article, podcast, museum, park, book, interview, documentary)
- **Title or name of article, book, film, site, exhibit, individual, etc.**
- **URL (if applicable)**
- **Creator, author, producer, director, (if applicable)**
- **Location (if it is a place you visited)**
- **Date of creation or publication (if applicable).**
- **Description and keywords:**
 - What topics or issues were explored in the source?
 - What is the context of this source?
 - What are some keywords you could use to find additional information on this topic?
 - You may also include other modes of documentation such as photography, video, and audio recording as long as YOU produce the documentation. For example, you may choose to record an interview or photograph a historic site but DO NOT download images or video from the web.
- **Your reflections:**
 - What interested you about this source?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have?
 - How is this source connected to a personal area of interest or inquiry?
 - Could this source lead to a possible mentoring opportunity?
 - **What are possible research topics related to this source?**

The expectation is not a cohesive essay but rather journal entries, showing your reactions to new information and the ideas/connections you have. I recommend you take a device or notebook to jot down your ideas as you experience the source and then type them very similarly to your first thoughts, editing your notes only for grammar/mechanics as you type.

Additional Sources (optional, thinking ahead): What are some additional sources you could use to continue your research? For each additional source, provide the title, URL (if it is a website) and any other information necessary to secure this as a potential source in the future.

This assignment is due on the first day of class. A copy of this assignment will be posted on the school website all summer. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at aramos@pasco.k12.fl.us

Rubric for AP Research 2019 Summer Assignment: Question & Explore.

Objective: Students will use a variety of media and resources to explore topics of interest and identify possible research questions. Students will demonstrate note-taking skills by summarizing and identifying key words.

Grades: Each source will be worth 50 points. 10 points for the source itself plus another 40 points for the quality of the reflection for each source. Your assignment will be graded on these criteria:

Source Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Lacking
# of Sources	4	3	2	1
Source Identifiers: Must be enough to find the source if needed for additional information.	Type, title or name, and at least two other identifiers like URL, physical location, creator, producer, author, or date	Includes type, title, name and at least one other identifier	Includes type, title, and at least one other identifier	Includes only one identifier.
Source Descriptors & Keywords: Describe the topics and issues explored and the context of the source. List 3-5 keywords that you could use to find additional information.	The description summarizes the main ideas, topics, and context of the source and includes 3-5 key words or phrases.	The description summarizes the topics but may lack specific information or context or important key words.	The description is overly general and lacks information about the issues and context. Key words are overly general or lacking.	Missing descriptive sentences.
Reflections: What interested you about this source? What did you learn? What questions do you have? What are some related topics?	The reflection includes why you were interested in this source, what you learned, a question or questions you have and at least one related topic	The reflection includes most of the elements but lacks a question or a related topic or why you were interested.	The reflection lacks several elements.	Missing a reflection.

This assignment was originally conceived by Ms. Dawn Knight and has been revised with her permission.