

**Summer Assignment: AP Research**  
**Ms. Ichord: jichord@bostonpublicschools.org**

Dear AP Researcher,

Congratulations for taking on the challenge of continuing on with the AP Capstone program. The skills that you have and will continue to develop in this program are important to your post-high school success. I salute you for your dedication!

Before embarking on the challenges ahead, there are some terms and concepts you need to master *independently* before starting AP Research. You can consider these concepts while riding the T, walking on the beach, sitting in the back of a car on a long road trip, playing Fortnite, or doing whatever summer activity you choose. I am asking you to dig deep, so this work is not something you'll want to put off until the night before school starts. Please stop by the library to pick up a copy of your reading; an electronic copy is not available. You will need this in order to move forward with the work. Nearly all students who have completed this course report that they wish they'd gotten an earlier start delving into this work.

All work will be due on the second Friday after we return to school -- by the end of the school day on September 13, 2019.

I look forward to working with you. This class brings with it many demands, but my goal is to do the best I can to support you. If you start to feel concerned, bewildered, overwhelmed, confused, frustrated or any combination of these, please reach out to me via [email](#). I'll be checking my messages all summer long, so please be in touch!

Have a great summer!

Ms. Ichord

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**Summer Reading and Reflection**

**Approximate Time Needed: 4 Hours**

Directions: Complete the following reflections prior to the start of AP Research. These reflections are designed to help you make the leap from AP Seminar to AP Research. Complete the reflections electronically and submit them to Google Classroom. This work, combined with other work throughout the year, will make up your PREP, a notebook required by College Board that will help you keep organized throughout the year.

Make sure to include the Question for Reflection when providing your responses. Responses should be at *minimum* one paragraph per question and should show your ability to provide supporting textual and experiential evidence as well as deep discussion.

**Text:** Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2015). *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson.

Title of Reading	Pages	Questions for Reflection
<b>“What Research is Not”</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What surprised you in this section? Why?</li> <li>● According to this section, how is AP Seminar different from AP Research?</li> </ul>
<b>“What Research Is”</b>	<b>2-7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What part of this section interests you? Why?</li> <li>● According to this section, how is AP Research an extension of AP Seminar?</li> </ul>
<b>“Words Enhance Thinking”</b>	<b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How will words influence your ability to conduct research?</li> <li>● Out of the four sections, which section did you connect to most? Why?</li> </ul>
<b>“The Human Mind”</b>	<b>17-22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Which subsection (Critical Thinking, Deductive Logic, Inductive Reasoning, Scientific Method, Theory Building, and Collaboration with Other Minds) are you least familiar with?</li> <li>● Which subsection (Critical Thinking, Deductive Logic, Inductive Reasoning, Scientific Method, Theory Building, and Collaboration with Other Minds) is most critical for Research? Why?</li> </ul>

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**Further Reading (Suggested):**

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.C., & Williams, J.M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.): University of Chicago Press.

**Summer Research Question Work**

**Approximate Time Needed: 4 Hours (More if you complete suggested work...which would be a REALLY good idea.)**

Similar 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). Complete the chart requirements and write your initial 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 this chart.

*Creating a Research Question:* Complete the following reflection questions on your electronic reflection document. The following elements are critical when attempting to build your research question. If you are struggling to understand the four major concepts – focus, scope, value and feasibility – do not forget to reference your textbook. After answering the questions in this chart, attempt to write your research question. You will need this RQ at the start of the year.

Concept	Description	Reflection Questions to Answer (Required)	Additional Work (Suggested)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Focus</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research Discipline and Topic</b></p>	<p><i>Discipline:</i> Lens of section of focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Art</li> <li>o History</li> <li>o Humanities</li> <li>o Hard Sciences</li> <li>o Social Sciences</li> <li>o Mathematics</li> </ul> <p><i>Topic:</i> Specific interest within a discipline that creates the basics of your research question</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school?</li> <li>• What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research?</li> <li>• What details can you add to your discipline to shape your topic interest?</li> </ul>	<p>Gather 10 research articles in the discipline of your interest.</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Scope</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Depth and Size of your Research Project</b></p>	<p><i>Context:</i> The specific setting of your research.</p> <p><i>Variables:</i> The items/people/situations/issues/concepts being studied and/or manipulated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What specific things will you study? People? Animals? Things? Concepts? Theories?</li>   <li>• How will you work with the people/animals/things/concepts/theories that you will research?</li> </ul>	<p>Find 10 research articles that work with similar variables to your research interest.</p> <p>You can use these articles to help inform your research method that you will construct in the course.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Value</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will your research change the way we currently see the topic?</li>   <li>• How will your research benefit society of your discipline of study?</li> </ul>	<p>Find 10 current discussions about your topic. 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 located the need for your project.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Feasibility</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Possibility of Research</b></p>	<p>Time, money, and resources can play a major part in determining the ability to complete research.</p> <p>You will have around two months to complete your actual research project: December and January.</p>	<p>What will you physically and/or monetarily need to complete your research?</p> <p>How long will your research take?</p> <p>Do you have access to the things your need for research?</p> <p>Who can help you with your research?</p>	<p>Make contact with an adult who is skilled in your topic. Talk with them and ask if they would be interested in supporting you during your research process. College Board requires you to have an Expert Advisor. Building a professional relationship with someone invested in your discipline will strengthen your academic paper.</p>

Initial Research Question:

*This assignment has been adapted from one originally created by AP Research teacher Emily Lott.*