

# POSNACK

S C H O O L

## Summer Assignments 2021 - 2022 • Research AP

### Course Description

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

### Required Texts

Leedy, P. & Ormrod, J. (2018). *Practical research: Planning and design*. 12th ed. Boston: Pearson Education.

### AP Research Course and Exam Description (links below)

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research>

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/ap/pdf/ap-research-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

### Summer Assignment: “Finding Your Motivation and Starting Your Process and Reflection Portfolio (PREP)”

Personal interest and intellectual curiosity inspire investigation of topics or issues that may or may not be clearly defined. A well-crafted investigation explores the complexity of an issue or topic. Further inquiry can lead to unexpected conclusions, resolutions, innovations, or solutions. In order to streamline progress towards your respective academic paper, presentation, and subsequent oral defense, the summer is a great time to begin exploring potential research topics, build some baseline knowledge for this course, and familiarize yourself with the required performance tasks.

After completion of this summer assignment, you will have developed research ideas and identified three topics of interest. You will have conducted a preliminary cursory exploration of the research process with an introduction to the course.

In assessing these topics, you should be able to answer—in the affirmative—each of the following questions:

1. "Will it keep me interested for a long period?"
2. "Can I answer it with the time and resources I have?"
3. "Is there someone (an expert advisor) who can—and is willing to—supervise me?"
4. "Do I have some idea of how to go about answering it?"

### ASSIGNMENT 1:

Log on to the AP Research Course page and familiarize yourself with the essential questions, course structure and timeline, background resources provided, and final assignment requirements.

### ASSIGNMENT 2:

Create a Google (Drive and name it [*last name*] AP Research 2022. Create a new file *inside this folder* and name it [*last name*] Summer Research Question Brainstorming and complete the following reflection questions in this

document. This will eventually be added to your electronic PREP document. Print this document on paper and bring it to class on the first day of school.

1. Consider the list of *disciplines* below and reflect on the academic courses you have taken so far.
  - Art
  - History
  - Humanities
  - Hard Sciences
  - Social Sciences
  - Mathematics

What discipline do you feel you are most successful in at school? Explain.

2. What discipline would you enjoy working in during your research? Is this the same as above? Why would you enjoy this? Describe your experience in this discipline (special projects, prior research, volunteer experience, etc.)
3. Begin to hone your ideas by narrowing in on 3 *topics*. A *topic* is a specific interest *within a discipline* that creates the basis of your research question. List your 3 topics of interest for the research project and provide a written explanation of the following for EACH:
  - A. Initial curiosity that led to this inquiry
  - B. Lenses from AP Seminar that you are planning to look into
  - C. Anticipated potential sources of information
  - D. Research questions for each potential topic based upon your current understanding of that idea

### **ASSIGNMENT 3:**

Gather 5 research articles for each of your 3 topics of interest for the research project. Create 3 topic folders within your AP research folder, and be sure to label each accordingly. Upload 5 articles in PDF format inside each folder. Make sure that when you download and save a PDF copy of an article, you label it! I recommend using the first 3 words of the article title followed by the year. This will help you find your sources quickly in the future.