

AP Research-11

Summer Assignment | 2025-26

All assignments are due on the *second day* your AP Research class meets. Please bring a paper copy of your assignment and have an electronic copy accessible on Google drive.

This assignment will orient you to the nature and responsibilities of research and provide opportunities to explore your research topic. Type all responses for Part I in *Times New Roman*, *Garamond* or *Ariel* – font size 12; 1.5- or double-spaced.

1. Read the AP Research course overview at: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research>

Write a five-sentence paragraph on your understanding of the course and its two Performance Task requirements that comprise the AP Exam.

2. Visit the AP Research Exam information page at: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-research/exam>

Read one high-scoring sample academic paper along with the rubric and scoring commentary. Write a five-sentence synopsis of the academic paper, including purpose(s) for the research, methods used, results, and conclusions reached by the researchers. Label the synopsis by the year and title of the paper (e.g., 2017 “Big Hero Six”).

Brainstorming a Possible Topic

- a. Research possible topics you are interested in pursuing for your AP Research Academic Paper (4,000 - 5,000 words). Write down three to five possible topics.
- b. Choose one of the issues you listed that you consider the one topic you may want to research. What is an issue in which you are interested?
- c. *Why* are you interested in this issue?
- d. Does this issue have more than one perspective you would like to examine? If so, what are the perspectives? Provide details about how each perspective relates to the topic.
- e. What are your own personal feelings on this issue? Explain why you feel this way.

Research Question

As you know, AP Research requires students to find a gap in existing research and to fill that gap with their own. Over the summer, please draft *three* (3) possible research questions.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Then, complete a literature review (essentially an IRR) for *one* (1) of the above questions [1250-1500 words].

Methods Handbook for each research method:

- a. Define the method and cite your source.
 - b. Find at least two (2) academic papers that use this method, insert links.
 - c. Create a *precis* (short summary) of how the author of each academic paper uses the research method.
- *Not* an abstract of the paper.

Methods | define *each* (not just the one you choose to employ):

- Case Study research
- Content analysis
- Correlational research
- Delphi research
- Descriptive research
- Ethnographic
- Evaluation research
- Experimental research
- Factor analysis
- Grounded Theory
- Hermeneutic research
- Historical research
- Meta-analysis research
- Narrative research
- Needs assessment
- Phenomenography
- Phenomenology
- Quasi-experimental research
- Semiology
- Trend Analysis research