

# AP Research Summer Assignments (2019)

DUE DATE: August 5, 2019

If you have any questions or concerns over the summer, feel free to contact me: brand.christine@fcboe.org

## AP Research Course Description (from the College Board)

AP Research 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 and a presentation with an oral defense.

Since AP Research requires “a yearlong investigation,” it is imperative that you begin the research process in May and continue it over the summer. This assignment is designed to introduce you to the course and help you brainstorm topic ideas and narrow your focus so you will be at a solid starting point in August.

A note on annotation: Annotate as you have done throughout AP Seminar, but also mark the following: central concepts, broad themes, disagreements among sources, conversations between sources, and recurring voices in your sources. See pages 35-37 in *The Bedford Researcher* for more details.

On August 5th, you will turn in

- This completed packet
- Two printed and annotated sources as explained in Part One
- Two printed and annotated sources as explained in Part Two
- Annotated bibliographies for each of the sources in Part Two (typed and printed)
- At least one activity as explained in Part Three

## **Part One: Choose Two Topics and Three Issues**

First, you will need to pick two topics. Your topics may come from any discipline, including:

- Art
- History
- Humanities (such as Literature, Anthropology, Philosophy, etc.)
- Hard Sciences (such as Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, etc.)
- Social Sciences (such as Human Geography, Psychology, Sociology, etc.)
- Mathematics

Your topic is the specific interest within a discipline what creates the basis for your research question (for example, the use of nuclear power, sale of human organs, Quentin Tarantino’s films, etc.). To decide on your topics, you may want to read and listen to various news sources, conduct some research, and talk to others. Identify **two** potential topics. Explore your topics by finding **two** sources for each (journal, newspaper, or magazine article). Make sure they are from two different lenses or stakeholders. Print and annotate each source. On the front page of the source, list the topic.

Now that you have explored two topics, you will need to narrow to three specific issues within each topic. Read Section 2b (pages 35-40) in *The Bedford Researcher*. Using your sources and any other research you conducted, identify at least three potential issues for each topic and answer the questions in the chart (below).

<p>Topic One: _____</p> <p>*Find two sources for this topic and annotate each source. Make sure they are from two different lenses or stakeholders. Write the topic on the first page of the source.*</p>	<p>Topic Two: _____</p> <p>*Find two sources for this topic and annotate each source. Make sure they are from two different lenses or stakeholders. Write the topic on the first page of the source.*</p>
<p>Issue One: _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?</li><li>2. Why does your issue matter?</li><li>3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?</li><li>4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.</li><li>5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?</li></ol>	<p>Issue One: _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?</li><li>2. Why does your issue matter?</li><li>3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?</li><li>4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.</li><li>5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?</li></ol>

Issue Two: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?
2. Why does your issue matter?
3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?
4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.
5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?

Issue Two: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?
2. Why does your issue matter?
3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?
4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.
5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?

Issue Three: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?

2. Why does your issue matter?

3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?

4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.

5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?

Issue Three: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Will your research on this issue change the way people currently see the topic? If so, how?

2. Why does your issue matter?

3. How will your research on this issue benefit society or your discipline?

4. Can the issue be approached through multiple perspectives or lenses? If so, list a few.

5. Is this a local, state, national, or global issue?

## Part Two: Narrow to One Issue

Take some time to think about your six issues. It may help you to complete additional research and talk to other people about the issues. Then, complete the following questions to help you narrow to a single issue.

1. What are the three most important issues I have identified so far?
2. Of these issues, which one will best help me sustain my interest in this project? Explain.
3. Which one is most appropriate for an academic research paper? Why?
4. Which one has the fewest limitations (which one is the most feasible)? Why?
5. Which one allows me to best take advantage of opportunities? Explain.

Based on these answers, my final issue is

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Now that you have decided on your final issue, you need to find **two** more sources. At least one of the sources must be a peer-reviewed article or a case study. Both of them must be credible enough to use for your academic paper. Print each source, annotate each source, and complete an annotated bibliography for each source (see handout; each annotated bibliography entry must be typed).

### Part Three: Develop Research Questions

Finally, you will develop five research questions for your issue. Read pages 41-52 in *The Bedford Researcher*. To generate research questions, complete one or more of the following activities: freewriting (pg. 21), looping (pg. 22), using sentence starters (pg. 24 and/or pg. 44), or completing a chart (pg. 45). You must turn in the activity you choose to complete. You should now have at least **five** research questions. Write these questions in the chart below.

Five potential research questions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Part Four: Expert Advisers

The College Board recommends that you have one or more expert advisers to help you throughout the school year. The advisers can help you with the formulation of your research question, hold work-in-progress interviews with you, provide background for a topic, help you with the mechanics of the research process, and provide general feedback. Advisers can be faculty members at WHS, community members, faculty members at an institute of higher education, or people from businesses and industries. Think about what you may need assistance with as you embark on your research project and figure out three people who could be your expert advisers, then complete the chart. You do not need to contact these people yet.

Expert Adviser One

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What assistance could this person provide?

How would I contact this person (email, phone number, etc.)?

Expert Adviser Two

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What assistance could this person provide?

How would I contact this person (email, phone number, etc.)?

Expert Adviser Three

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What assistance could this person provide?

How would I contact this person (email, phone number, etc.)?