

AP Research Summer Assignments (2021)

DUE DATE: August 6, 2021

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 6th, you will turn in

- This completed packet
- Four 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)

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 which 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 each 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 (see subsequent pages).

Topic One: _____

As directed above, find two sources for this topic and annotate each source. Make sure they are from two different lenses or stakeholders. Write the topic of the first page of each source.

Issue One: _____

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.

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.

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.

Topic Two: _____

As directed above, find two sources for this topic and annotate each source. Make sure they are from two different lenses or stakeholders. Write the topic of the first page of each source.

Issue One: _____

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.

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.

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.

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

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 separate handout; each annotated bibliography entry must be typed).