

Welcome to AP Research!

I'm so excited that you've chosen to take this journey, and I'm so excited to be taking this journey with you! This is the 5th year this course is being taught at Wando, and I am excited to see where this next year takes us!

What is AP Research?

In AP Research you will deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue or idea of individual interest. It is super important to choose something that you have a genuine interest in because you will spend a majority of the year researching the topic of your choice. This year you will design, plan and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. In AP Seminar, you reported on research that had previously existed and used that research to support an argument you were making. In AP Research, you will conduct the research and add to the current body of knowledge in your topic. You will want to find a mentor in your topic area that can help guide you through this process and help educate you in your particular field. **This summer**, as you begin to investigate topic areas, you may want to start thinking of potential mentors who would be a good fit for you.

Summer Assignment:

This summer you will begin the **Question & Explore** phase of your research project that will culminate in a final paper and presentation at the end of the year. The Question & Explore phase requires you to read critically, pose questions, and identify issues that compel you. **During this phase, complete the following Interest Inventory while you explore a topic or topics that interest you and reflect on your interest as you begin to answer the first, most important question: "What do I want to know, learn, or understand?"**

You may use a variety of sources for your exploration including but not limited to **podcasts, documentary films, newspaper/journal/ magazine articles, museum exhibits, historic sites, botanical gardens, state and national parks, places of worship, concerts, plays, religious ceremonies, radio broadcasts, interviews with subject experts** (i.e. a scientist or researcher, a historian, a public official, etc.), **archives, books, TED Talks**, etc.

The most important objective is to explore sources on topics that genuinely interest you, ask questions about what you don't know, and reflect on possible research connections.

Please note: The goal of this assignment is for you to begin exploring research topics. I DO NOT expect you to have a research question by the first day of class. However, the closer you are to identifying a topic or topic area, the more time you will have to actually work on your research project next year.

Please email me with any questions you have! dianna_sox@charleston.k12.sc.us

I'm looking forward to a great year Researching together!

AP Research Interest Inventory

Part I: For this section, do a little exploratory research on any resources at your disposal (some ideas are listed on the cover page letter) or consider topics you learned about in your other classes and complete the chart. This is a brainstorm and your answers can be bullet-pointed phrases.

Focus:	Answer:
Look up topics related to art or culture (music, literature, film, theater, etc.). What interests you?	
What are some current economic or political issues in the U.S. and/or world?	
What are some historical topics that interest you?	
What are some health/medical related topics that interest you?	
Which kind of science most interests you? What are some topics in that field?	
What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology?	
What career are you considering pursuing?	
What are some current issues in education?	
What is something you are curious about? What fascinates you?	
What is a problem(s) you would like to see solved?	

What prediction can you make about the future?	
What is something you would like to create?	
What is something you don't understand but would like explained?	
Consider both good and bad personal experiences that affected/changed you. Is there a theme among them? How could the experience have been better or worse?	
What's been your favorite class at Wando? Why? Any particular topic within that class?	

Part II: Select 3 most promising/interesting topics you provided in the table above and develop an original, potential research question for each topic. Then find 2 academic articles or sources on each topic and provide a link/citation and a brief summary of the source. Your summary should include the following: the author and credentials, the main focus/idea/argument, purpose, any research conducted (method and results), etc.

Topic/Area of Interest	Pot. Research Question	Source Links/Citations and Summary
		Source 1:
		Source 2:
		Source 1:
		Source 2:

		Source 1:
		Source 2:

Part III: Research falls into one of three methodological categories (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method). Explore these three types and provide a definition and example(s) for each type of method.

	Define	Examples / Types
Qualitative		
Quantitative		
Mixed Methods		

Based on your topics listed above in Part II, which type of method do you think would best align to answer the research question you developed and why?

	Type of method to answer the question:	Reasoning / justification:
Topic / Research Question 1		
Topic / Research Question 2		
Topic / Research Question 3		

APR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC

PART 1	Total Points Possible	Points Received
Interest Inventory	2 pts each x 15 = 30	
PART 2		
Topic 1 (RQ, 2 Sources with Summary)	15	
Topic 2 (RQ, 2 Sources with Summary)	15	

Topic 3 (RQ, 2 Sources with Summary)	15	
PART 3		
Research methods exploration	25	