

AP Research Summer Assignment
2023-2024

Welcome to AP Research!

We have made it through the first half of the AP Capstone journey, and I am excited to see how much more you will learn and grow this year in AP Research. I was truly blown away by the final products you all produced in AP Seminar, and you should be proud of yourselves for making the commitment to advance your knowledge and skills in so many areas through this program.

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, refer back to your AP Seminar Final Exam Project and reflect on your interests 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 topic 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!

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

-Lauren Lyon

The Assignment (Parts I-III)

Part I: Open your AP Seminar Final Exam Project and review your test results and interests.

Part II: Select three of the most promising/interesting topics you provided in the table on the AP Seminar Final Exam Project and develop an original, potential research question for each topic. Then find three academic articles or sources on each topic and provide a permalink/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. Your sources should be credible (required) and scholarly (as many as possible but not required).

Topic/Area of Interest #1	Potential Research Question #1	Source Links/Citations & Summary #1
		Source 1:
		Source 2:
		Source 3:
Topic/Area of Interest #2	Potential Research Question #2	Source Links/Citations & Summary #2
		Source 1:
		Source 2:
		Source 3:
Topic/Area of Interest #3	Potential Research Question #3	Source Links/Citations & Summary #3
		Source 1:
		Source 2:
		Source 3:

Part III: Types of Researchers Survey

Enter your T, F, S, and I numbers in the spaces provided below in the table.

Fill in the remainder of the table by computing the sums of:

T + I in cell I

T + S in cell II

S + F in cell III

I + F in cell IV

Your research style(s) is/are the cell(s) with the largest sum.

Underline the style(s) with the largest sum (Types, I, II, III, or IV)

	T-Value: _____	F-value: _____
I-value: _____	I. (T+I): _____	IV. (F+I): _____
S-value: _____	II. (T+S): _____	III. (F+S): _____

	<u>Type of Researcher</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
I.	Conceptual Theorist	Holistic & imaginative - believes in TOE (Theory of Everything)
II.	Analytical Scientist	Preference for exactness, precision, and unambiguous situations
III.	Particular Humanist	Humans are too complex to study as a whole
IV.	Conceptual Humanist	Knowledge exists to better humanity

C. Read about your research style(s) below. In future reflections, you will evaluate the strength of the descriptions and your computed style with how you feel you engage in inquiry.

I. Conceptual Theorist

This type of researcher believes in the Theory of Everything. A conceptual theorist is holistic and imaginative. He or she believes in multiple causations and the development of a coherent testable framework through large-scale correlation. Science holds a definite privilege in this type of thinking, but it is not the only way that a conceptual theorist views a problem.

Motto: Intellectual conflict is an important characteristic of research and should not be dismissed. Such conflict is vital to the development of both methods and theories.

Methodologies that would likely appeal to a conceptual theorist: correlational studies, factor analyses, descriptive research, repertory grid analysis, Q-methodology, and Delphi study.

Research topics that would likely appeal to a conceptual theorist if asked to choose a research topic on smoking and health: Determine the correlation between smoking and diseases, smoking and personality types, why people smoke, and as many multiple correlations as one can ascertain between smoking and other factors.

II. Analytical Scientist

This type of researcher prefers exactness, precision, and unambiguous situations. Science is also paramount and exact in this type of thinking. The analytical scientist sees science as ruled by nature. The ideal experiment is one where all variables are controlled.

Motto: In order to label something a scientific theory, it must be cast into a logical form so that, given the proper antecedent conditions (X, A), one can make the valid deduction (Y). Otherwise (according to the analytical science view) it is nonscientific.

Methodologist that would likely appeal to an analytical scientist: experimental design, quasi-experimental design, semiotics, trend analysis, design-based research, regression-discontinuity design, and retrospective record review.

Research topics that would likely appeal to an analytical scientist if asked to choose a research topic on smoking and health: Determine definitively if cigarette smoking causes cancer. Simulate smoking in laboratory animals and determine if cancer is caused.

III. Particular Humanist

This type of researcher prefers personal knowledge to rational knowledge. Science is not privileged in this type of thinking and is subordinate to other disciplines such as poetry and literature. The particular humanist believes that humans are too complex to study as a whole

Motto: It is absurd to think that science has remained immune to outside influences. The challenge is to develop a methodology that does justice not only to the humanity of the participants studied but to the researcher as well. Only a person who is passionately involved in his or her research can make a difference.

Methodologies that would likely appeal to a particular humanist: case study, appreciative inquiry, action research, semiology, phenomenology, grounded theory, critical incident technique, and hermeneutics.

Research topics that would likely appeal to a particular humanist if asked to choose a research topic on smoking and health: Study a smoker and determine why this person started smoking and any ill effects attributed to smoking. Have cancer patients who have smoked keep a diary and study their feelings and concerns.

IV. Conceptual Humanist

This type of researcher prefers holistic knowledge. Science has no special privilege in this type of thinking. Knowledge exists only to better humanity. To further understand humanity, a conceptual humanist believes that one must study human behavior from many points of view and constantly develop new approaches to improve human life based on these observations.

Motto: The question is not, "Is storytelling science?" but "Can science be used for the betterment of humanity?"

Methodologies that would likely appeal to a conceptual humanist: grounded theory, phenomenology, evaluative case study, causal comparative research, historical research, appreciative inquiry, content analysis, Delphi method.

Research topics that would likely appeal to a conceptual humanist if asked to choose a research topic on smoking and health: Survey ex-smokers and determine the most effective ways each person was able to stop smoking. Use this information to develop a program to help people stop smoking.

[Bonus Part IV just for fun: Read this student sample final paper for a sneak peak of the type of work you could be doing this year in AP Research.](#)

APR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC

Name:

PART I	Total Points Possible	Points Received
Interest Inventory	—	—
PART II		
Topic 1 (RQ, 3 Sources with Summary)	30 pts	
Topic 2 (RQ, 3 Sources with Summary)	30 pts	
Topic 3 (RQ, 3 Sources with Summary)	30 pts	
PART III		
Type of Researcher	10 pts	