

## AP Research Summer Assignment - 2020

### -Welcome to AP Research!

I'm so excited to be taking this journey with you! This is the third year this course is being taught at Hunt AND in the Wilson County School District, and I am eager to take what I've learned in the last two years and share that experience with you.

### -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 that you choose.** 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 this research to support an argument. In AP Research, you will conduct your own original research and add to the current body of academic knowledge in your chosen field. You will find an academic (PhD in most cases) or a technical (MA or technical expert in nascent or obscure fields) mentor in your topic area that can help guide you through this process and help educate you in your particular field of inquiry. **This summer**, as you begin to investigate topic areas, you may want to start thinking of potential mentors that would be a good fit for you (a good place to look is in academic departments of universities studying whatever it is that you're interested in). Professor contact information is usually posted online.

### Summer Assignment:

This summer you will begin the **Question & Explore** phase of your research project that will begin a process 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, you should explore a topic or topics that interest you *and keep a journal of your reflections 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 and 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**, and **books**. You may also incorporate your exploration into any planned summer vacations **as long as you keep a detailed account of what you learned and your reflections on the experience.** For example, while visiting another city, you may choose to visit a museum or historic site and reflect on that visit in your journal.

**The most important objective** is to explore sources on topics that genuinely interest you and keep a journal of what you learned and your reflections 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 specific 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.

★★ You must have at least **FOUR** sources. **A book of at least two hundred and fifty pages will count as two sources.** Any combination of sources is acceptable – your curiosity should be your guide! ★★

Your summer assignment should be typed and will be the first entry in your PREP Journal (Process & Reflection Portfolio) which is required by the College Board. Your Summer Assignment should include these basic elements **for each source**:

- **Type of source** (newspaper/magazine article, podcast, museum, park, book, interview, documentary)
- **Title or name of article, book, film, site, exhibit, individual, etc.**
- **URL (if applicable)**
- **Creator, author, producer, director, (if applicable)**
- **Location (if it is a place you visited)**
- **Date of creation or publication (if applicable).**
- **Description and keywords:**
  - What topics or issues were explored in the source?
  - What is the context of this source?
  - What are some keywords you could use to find additional information on this topic?
  - You may also include other modes of documentation such as photography, video, and audio recording as long as YOU produce the documentation. For example, you may choose to record an interview or photograph a historic site but DO NOT download images or video from the web.
- **Your reflections:**
  - What interested you about this source?
  - What did you learn?
  - What questions do you have?
  - How is this source connected to a personal area of interest or inquiry?
  - **What are possible research topics related to this source?**
- **OPTIONAL: Additional Sources:** What are THREE additional sources you could use to continue your research. For each additional source, provide the title, URL (if it is a website) and any other information necessary to secure this as a potential source in the future.

**This assignment is due on the first day of class.** I will post this assignment on my website: [https://hunt.wilsonschooolsnc.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=1054410&type=u&pREC\\_ID=1564144](https://hunt.wilsonschooolsnc.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1054410&type=u&pREC_ID=1564144) and as the summer goes on, and I will try to post articles and other useful information there as well. If you have questions or need some help finding sources relevant to your interests, please email Mr. Greer at [stephen.greer@wilsonschooolsnc.net](mailto:stephen.greer@wilsonschooolsnc.net)

**NOTE: THIS WILL BE MORE USEFUL WRITTEN IN JOURNAL FORM AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE WRITTEN AS AN ESSAY. BE THOROUGH AND THOUGHTFUL AND HAVE FUN !!!**

**Rubric for AP Research 2020 Summer Assignment:** Question & Explore.

**Objective:** Students will use a variety of media and resources to explore topics of interest and identify possible research questions. Students will demonstrate note-taking skills by summarizing and identifying key words.

**Grades:** Each source will be worth 25 points. 10 points for the source itself plus another 15 points for the quality of the reflection for each source. Your assignment will be graded on these criteria:

Source Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Lacking
# of Sources	4	3	2	1
<b>Source Identifiers:</b> Must be enough to find the source if needed for additional information.	Type, title or name, and at least two other identifiers like URL, physical location, creator, producer, author, or date	Includes type, title, name and at least one other identifier	Includes type, title, and at least one other identifier	Includes only one identifier.
<b>Source Descriptors &amp; Keywords:</b> Describe the topics and issues explored and the context of the source. List 3-5 keywords that you could use to find additional information.	The description summarizes the main ideas, topics, and context of the source and includes 3-5 key words or phrases.	The description summarizes the topics but may lack specific information or context or important key words.	The description is overly general and lacks information about the issues and context. Key words are overly general or lacking.	Missing descriptive sentences.

<b>Reflections:</b> What interested you about this source? What did you learn? What questions do you have? What are some related topics?	The reflection includes why you were interested in this source, what you learned, a question or questions you have and at least one related topic	The reflection includes most of the elements but lacks a question or a related topic or why you were interested.	The reflection lacks several elements.	Missing a reflection.
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