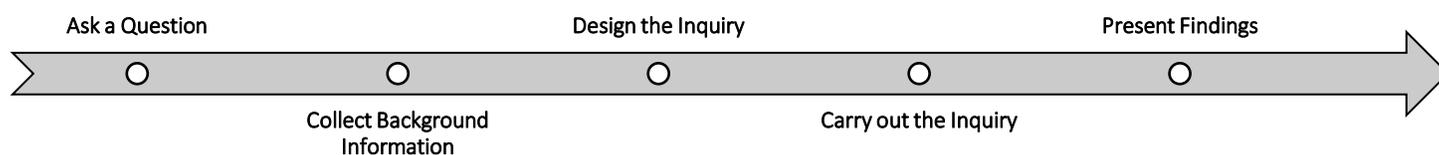


AP Research Summer Assignment

Dear AP Research Student,

Congratulations on completing AP Seminar, and welcome to the second half of the AP Capstone! I am excited about the year ahead. This year, we will continue with the QUEST Framework (College Board). Now that you have mastered the skills to analyze and evaluate sources to synthesize your argument, you will design a research inquiry original to you. Seminar ended with your synthesis of an argument based on reputable sources – this is where AP Research begins. You are not required to build upon your Seminar projects, but you may do so if you enjoyed them.

In AP Research, your path will look something like this:



Your end goal will be to present your findings in an academic paper along with a presentation and oral defense. However, it is the PROCESS of research that will be most important in your growth as a student rather than the product. Most of you will experience challenges, but they will all be manageable and surmountable with help from your peers and from me – couple that with a healthy dose of positive self-talk, and you'll have grown into a Research Master.

The goal of this assignment is to help you determine your research topic for your AP Research course. The most important thing about your topic is that it is interesting to you personally. Do not choose a research topic simply because it sounds academic or like someone else would think it is interesting. You will be spending the whole year on this project – it will be a more difficult year if you do not like your topic. According to the College Board, some areas you may want to consider are:

- Natural Sciences, Technology, Mathematics, Environment
- Social Science, Politics, Economics, Psychology
- Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theater)
- Culture, Languages, Linguistics
- History, Literature, Philosophy, Critical Theory/Criticism
- Entrepreneurism / Business ethics / concerns

Through this assignment, you will be guided to consider your interests in all areas. Past research students have studied political trends, public health, environmental sciences, movies, music, technology – even comic books and video games. The sky is (almost) the limit.

I'm sure you're asking about details at this point. For this assignment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Enroll in the Google Classroom for this Summer Assignment (code: hwzrqgi)
- Please fill in your information on this document . . . there is not enough space provided to be completed in hand written format.
- Although we will discuss research topics during the first week of class, this assignment will also be due that first week.
- It is best practice to treat this project / document as a living document that you reflect upon and add to throughout the summer.

I am so excited for the upcoming year. I hope you have a fantastic summer!

Happy Researching!

Mr. Bath

AP Research Summer Assignment – Researcher Name:	
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Stage 1: Begin the Journey – What are my interests?

1. In the table below, write a detailed list in each column. This list is about YOU. Please don't include what you think I want to hear. Number or bullet the list. Please list AT LEAST a total of 12 entries in the table. There is no limit to how much you can write in this section. Each column should have at least one entry, but you do not need to have an equal number of entries in each column.

<i>List your interests and hobbies:</i>	<i>List your favorite subjects/courses/concepts you've learned in school:</i>	<i>List your extracurricular activities (sports, community involvement, music, clubs/organizations, work, etc.)</i>

2. Take the Personality / Career Quiz @ OpenColleges.edu: <https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/careers/career-quiz>

3. Reflect and explore your results and list your top 3 choices for potential careers:

<i>Potential Careers (Top 3)</i>	<i>Degree(s) needed to pursue the career(s)</i>	<i>Key Issue(s) / problem(s) relevant to the career</i>
1		
2		
3		

4. In the table below, list five current events (occurred in the last 12 months) in any field that interests you. You may include more than five current events. Simply add more rows to the table. Explain your interest.

Current Event	Explanation of Interest

5. From the lists above (including your AP Seminar Projects), select the top 5 things you are most interested in. Explain what interests you most about those five activities or subjects in the table below.

Interest/Activity/Topic	Explanation of interest

6. For each of the five activities or subjects, write three questions or curiosities you have about that activity or subject. Please bullet or number the list of curiosities in each row.

Interest/Activity/Topic Name:	Three questions/curiosities about each activity or subject:

7. A research topic is the area of interest that will guide your research. It should not be too broad, but it should not be so specific that you cannot find previous information to guide your inquiry. An example of a research topic might be “the role of music in fetal development” Choose three of the questions or curiosities you listed that are most intriguing to you. What research topic could emerge from this curiosity? You are not committing to a research topic by writing it below.

Question/Curiosity Name	Potential Research Topic

Stage 2: Begin the Search – Field Research

1. As you are moving closer to choosing a particular field of study and a research question you wish to explore, begin searching to see what has already been written on your general topic.

Field of Study:	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 1	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 2	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 3	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 4	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 5	

2. Your goal is to search for an untapped/ unexplored angle – where is there a gap or a hole in the conversation on this subject; what needs to be added? How can you make it original AND feasible?

*** What is my interest / untapped/ unexplored angle on each topic?	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 1	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 2	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 3	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 4	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 5	

3. Create a preliminary list of 20-25 sources (you'll be able to add on to this next year) on your chosen topic of field study / research question.
 - a. sources should be credible enough to use down the road.
 - b. Consider the following questions:
 - i. Is this topic feasible to research (is there existing, credible research on this topic that I can draw from)?
 - ii. What kind of study could I conduct on this topic?
 - iii. What are some options for making my study original?
 - iv. What might impede my being able to conduct a study on this topic in 7 months?
 - v. Would my study be best executed with human participants or with strictly content?
 - vi. What resources or support would I need to be able to conduct a study on this topic?

Below is a list of 20-25 sources on my chosen topic of field study / research question:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
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15.
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17.
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22.
23.
24.
25.

Stage 3: Narrow the Search – Focus the Study

1. Looking at all of the information you've gathered thus far, focus your study by selecting a hot topic / current issue within a particular field.
2. Using the research you have done from the previous stage, select 15 sources as a course of study surrounding this chosen topic/issue. You may have to do additional research at this stage as your topic is more specific now.
3. Fill-out this information in the table that follows:

My Field / Career of Study:	
Current Hot Topic / Issue / Problem within this field:	
Below is my course of study surrounding this Current Hot Topic / Issue / Problem:	
1.	

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.

Stage 4: Summer Reading Analysis

1. Over the summer, critically read and annotate each of the 15 selected resources listed above (Stage 3)
2. For each article, write a concise reflection about how the article connects to the hot topic/issue you are exploring.
3. Take your reflection and include it within an annotated bibliography for all 15 sources.
4. At the end of your annotated bibliography, make a preliminary proposal for a research question from the study you had just concluded.

a. Here is a sample of an entry for an annotated bibliography (obviously, you would do this for all 15 sources):

i. **Holland, Suzanne. *The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy*. Boston: MIT Press, 2001.** *Human embryonic stem cells can divide indefinitely and have the potential to develop into many types of tissue. Research on these cells is essential to one of the most intriguing medical frontiers, regenerative medicine. It also raises a host of difficult ethical issues and has sparked great public interest and controversy. This book offers a foundation for thinking about the many issues involved in human embryonic stem cell research. It considers questions about the nature of human life, the limits of intervention into human cells and tissues, and the meaning of our corporeal existence. The fact that stem cells may be derived from living embryos that are destroyed in the process or from aborted fetuses ties the discussion of stem cell research to the ongoing debates on abortion. In addition to these issues, the essays in the book touch on broader questions such as who should approve controversial research and what constitutes human dignity, respect, and justice. The book contains contributions from the Ethics Advisory Board of the Geron Corporation; excerpts from expert testimony given before the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, which helped shape recent National Institutes of Health policy; and original analytical essays on the implications of this research.*

b. Sample Research Question proposal:

i. ***Stem Cell Research: Will the struggle between science and ethics derail the future for medical innovation?***