

Welcome to AP Research!

First, please join the AP Research 2020-2021 Google Classroom using the code: **r3etxtz** and the Remind, by texting **@kb68a34** to 81010 or joining at Remind.com.

I'm excited that you have chosen to take the next step in the Capstone journey, and look forward to taking it with you! The goal of this assignment is for you to begin exploring research topics. I do not expect you to have a topic firmly decided on the first day of class. However, the closer you are to identifying a topic or area of study, the more time you will have to actually work on your project next year.

What is AP Research?

In AP Research you will deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. It is very important that you chose something that you are interested in and care about because you will spend the majority of the year with this topic. In AP Seminar you synthesized research that previously existed in order to create an argument. In AP Research **you will conduct the research** to add to the body of knowledge on your topic. The topic is entirely of your choosing. You will design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question that you develop in that topic. You will ultimately want to find a mentor in your topic area to help guide and educate you in your particular field. This summer, as you explore topic areas, you may want to start thinking about connections that you have for possible mentors. There is not an exam in AP Research. An academic paper of 4,000- 5,000 words is 75% of your score, and a 15-20 minute presentation is 25%. The more detailed course overview is here.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-research-course-overview.pdf>

Summer Assignment

This summer you will begin the QUESTION & EXPLORE phase of your research project. This phase requires you to read critically, pose questions, and identify issues that compel you. The most important question in this phase is : *What do I want to know, learn, or understand?* This can be ANYTHING. You might want to start by brainstorming a list of things that you are fascinated by or obsessed with, even if you don't think right now that they would make a good research topic. See what is out there about those topics.

Your assignment is to find **4** subjects for exploration and a source that relates to each. You will create a journal entry of reflections on each and find at least 1 additional academic source that connects to this topic. Any combination of inspiration sources is acceptable. 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, state and national parks, places of worship, concerts, plays, religious ceremonies, radio broadcasts, interviews with experts, archives and books. (a book of at least 200 pages, that you have read fully, will count as 2 sources.)

The most important objective is to explore sources on topics that interest you and keep a journal of what you learned and your reflections on possible research connections. What do you wonder? I suggest that you make these four topics broad and not necessarily all related/interconnected. You want to explore multiple directions of possibility.

This assignment should be typed and will be the first entry into your PREP Journal as part of your Process and Reflection portfolio that is required by College Board. **It will be ONE document, but please start each source at the top of a new page. Specific instructions are on the next page.**

Please print this assignment and have it ready to turn in on the first day of class. I will post this assignment on Google Classroom as well as posting some links to potential sources. If you have any questions or need help finding sources relevant to your interests, please email Ms. Kirkpatrick at skirkpatric45@ebschools.org.

Journal Entry:

For each source, include:

- Title or name of the source
- Type of source
- URL or location if applicable
- 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 info on this topic?
 - You may also include other modes of documentation such as photos, video or audio as long as YOU produce the documentation.

- 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?
- Additional source(s). For each additional source, provide the information that would be required to secure this as a potential source in the future. You may print articles and bring them to class. This would be helpful.

Be thorough and thoughtful and enjoy the assignment. You should be exploring issues that are truly of interest to you.