


# AP Research Pre-Course Assignment

As you move through this assignment, please place your answers in the GREEN boxes. Here we go!

## PART I: Background Knowledge

### “Research” versus “research”

Time to move on from the little-leagues and up to the East side (but there will be no deluxe apartment waiting for you). Kudos if you got the song reference! But seriously. AP Seminar was all about using the ideas of others. Now it’s time to create our OWN findings 

To clarify:

- Little “r” research is basically just searching for literature to develop an argument or stance around an issue or to report on what is known about a problem or question.
- Questions that look more like debates about controversial issues are little “r” research questions and must be avoided.
- Questions that can be answered by looking up scholarly works that have already been published are little “r” research questions as well, and will not work for this class.
- Capital “R” Research is where a student has a well-articulated research method to generate evidence to support a new understanding or new piece of knowledge, which, if someone else “repeated” it, that person could come up with the same understanding and validate the new piece of knowledge.
- Questions that are narrow, focused, and unanswerable by the literature in the field are Capital “R” Research questions.

## Required Reading

Please grab a cup of coffee and get cozy as you read these excerpts from Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2019). *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. (12th ed.) New York: Pearson. Is this going to be as exciting as reading about that time the author of IWA Example C got the hot/cold treatment from acid rain in China? No. Is it valuable for your foundational knowledge of this class? Yes.

[Practical Research: Planning and Design Full Text](#)

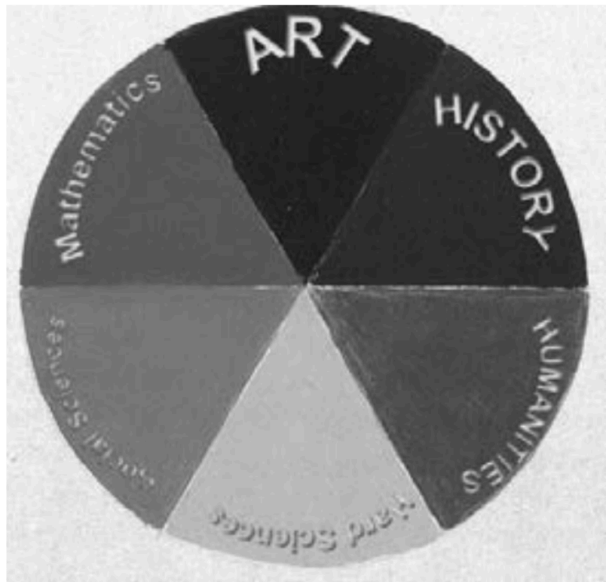
<b>Assigned Section (use PDF viewer pages)</b>	<b>Questions for Reflection</b>
“What Research Is” & “What Research Is Not” pp. 24-30	<p>Explain your answers using <b>textual evidence</b> (cited in APA format) to emphasize your claims (cue the audible groans of discontent). If Capstone has taught us anything thus far, our ideas are 🤖 without evidence to back them up.</p> <p>What surprised you in this section? Why?</p> <p>According to this section, how is AP Seminar <i>different</i> from AP Research?</p> <p>According to this section, how is AP Research also an <i>extension</i> of AP Seminar?</p>
“Philosophical Assumptions Underlying Research Methodologies” pp. 31-32	<p>Discuss the differences and overlaps between the following philosophical approaches to research: positivism, postpositivism, constructivism and phenomenology.</p> <p>Which philosophical approaches are most aligned with quantitative research? Qualitative?</p>
“The Human Mind” (A Research Tool) pp. 42-48	<p>What is the difference between deductive and inductive reasoning?</p> <p>What is an example of how to test a theory?</p> <p>Which subsection – Critical Thinking, Deductive Logic, Inductive Reasoning, Scientific Method, Theory Building, and Collaboration with Other Minds – do you believe is most critical for AP Research? Why?</p>

"Research Problems" pp. 53-57	Explain the difference between basic and applied research.
	What surprises you about the criteria for a good research problem? How does this differ from AP Seminar research problems?






## Part II: Disciplines for AP Research

### Understanding Research Disciplines in Preparation for AP Research

Remember the sweet, innocent days of AP Seminar lenses and perspectives? Well, in the bigger world of research there are specific disciplines/organizations with long-held paradigms that use their own ways of knowing to understand phenomena, collect and analyze data or information, and generate new understandings. Say that sentence three times fast! In order to situate your research project (know where you are going), you must be aware of your own way of knowing and how it connects (or disconnects) with the discipline's way of knowing pertaining to your topic of inquiry. Academia is a little like the movie *Mean Girls*. In certain disciplines, we wear pink. And if you don't, you can't sit with us! To align your approach with the discipline of your topic of inquiry, you must be aware of the type of knowledge that is valued, the methods to get to that knowledge, and how that new knowledge is reported within a discipline.



Review each of the following disciplines, including the sample papers attached. You will need to choose **one** for your AP Research project, so peruse each one to understand the differences within them. Yes, you should still do this even if you think you already know what you want to research; some of these discussions within the other disciplines may intrigue you more than you expected! Save your obstinacy for when you're old, it's more befitting that way.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/january-2007/what-does-it-mean-to-think-historically">www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/january-2007/what-does-it-mean-to-think-historically</a></p> <p> Historical Sample Paper.pdf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARD/SOCIAL SCIENCES &amp; MATH</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.educationforthinking.org/sites/default/files/pdf/05-02WhatIsScientificThinking.pdf">www.educationforthinking.org/sites/default/files/pdf/05-02WhatIsScientificThinking.pdf</a> *read highlighted portions only</p> <p> Hard Science Sample Paper.pdf</p> <p> Social Science Sample Paper.pdf</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HUMANITIES</b></p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/10KxY8DQAmhtNu56aSYokKfgzAWHG5H4eUM-1icfsFNs/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/10KxY8DQAmhtNu56aSYokKfgzAWHG5H4eUM-1icfsFNs/edit?usp=sharing</a></p> <p> Humanities Sample Paper.pdf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARTS</b></p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JhhwH-5Pyc78NguzZcj-Kwi7NUqq0/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JhhwH-5Pyc78NguzZcj-Kwi7NUqq0/view?usp=sharing</a></p> <p> Arts Sample Paper.pdf</p>

Are you *confused* on the difference between arts and humanities? Kind of like why Arkansas and Kansas are pronounced differently but spelled the same? Read more here: <https://jgu.edu.in/blog/2024/02/19/difference-between-arts-and-humanities/#:~:text=Arts%20are%20more%20concerned%20with,are%20more%20objective%20and%20universal.>

And if you don't get what I'm referencing, please take a brief brain-break and google "Vine Arkansas vs. Kansas Confusion". Be careful not to stumble down the Youtube rabbit hole; Vine was a precious era.

## Discipline Review

Hey! Welcome back! After reviewing discipline-specific ways of knowing and inquiring, choose **ONE** of the aforementioned disciplines that you are most interested in. Respond to the following questions with alacrity and enthusiasm (or silent disdain???). Feel free to do additional research to understand these questions further; you may have to use your noggin for some of these.

<p><b>Which Academic Discipline did you choose?</b></p>	
<p><b>Method of Inquiring:</b> In what way might that discipline gather data or information to "know" or "understand" something? Is the method of inquiring primarily INDUCTIVE or DEDUCTIVE (prove a hypothesis or link together evidence to make a hypothesis)?</p>	
<p><b>Gathering Data/Information:</b> What is a researcher in that discipline looking for?</p>	
<p><b>Analyzing Data/Information:</b> How should that information be organized and interpreted?</p>	
<p><b>Presenting Information:</b> How should a researcher in that discipline present results to others in that discipline?</p>	

<b>Credibility:</b> How does conducting research and sharing results in ways that align to discipline expectations affect author credibility?	
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## Part III: Interest Inventory ✨

Now for the fun part: brainstorming ideas for your AP Research project! I know, I know – some of you already have a topic in mind. However, you’re going to get VERY comfortable with this topic over the next year of your life. Too comfortable, even. In fact, this project is going to become a clingy friend that begs for your time with an unwavering lack of self-awareness on their own behalf. So, do your due diligence and complete these questions to ensure you’re arriving at a space that truly gets the people (you) going!



### What is going on in the world around me? 🌍

For this section, do a little research on reliable news sources, EBSCO, Google Scholar, or consider topics you learned about in your other classes. Or pull from the immense stores of knowledge that many of you have somehow amassed in your short 17 years on this planet. Your answers can be short, bullet-pointed phrases; please don't waste your time writing paragraphs about these questions.

Look up topics related to art or culture (music,	
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literature, film, theater, etc.). What interests you?	
Look up topics related to the economy – U.S. or another country. What interests you?	
Look up topics related to businesses and corporations. What interests you?	
What are some current political issues in the U.S.?	
What are some current political issues globally?	
What are some historical topics that interest you?	
What historical topics relate to a current issue today?	
What are some health/medical related topics that interest you?	
Which kind of science most interests you? What are some potential topics in that field?	
What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology?	
What place interests you?	
What is your favorite book? Movie? Why?	
What career are you considering pursuing?	
In what ways do people surprise you?	
What are some current issues in education?	
What are some current issues amongst adolescents?	
Spend one day observing as you go about your day (brush your teeth, drive around, walk, shop, interact, travel, etc.) What are some interesting things you notice? What do you wonder? What	

surprises you?	
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## But what are *my* interests?

What fascinates you?	
What is something you are curious about?	
What is a problem you would like to see solved?	
What is a topic you are passionate about?	
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 you like explained?	

## Part IV: Annotated Bibliography

### Topic Exploration

Use the interest inventory to brainstorm **2 possible topics** to investigate for your research project. For each topic, name the overarching discipline. Then, explain [the research problem](#) at the heart of this topic.

Topic 1	Topic 2
Discipline	Discipline

Problem	Problem

## Directions

You will complete **two separate annotated bibliographies** in APA format over each of the **two research topics**. Annotated Bibliographies are actually very helpful when it is time for you to really start reviewing the literature of your topic. With this assignment, we are just beginning the process of “identifying the gap in the knowledge” for your topic.

**Important: As you read these sources and create annotations, look for debates in the field or questions that have yet to be answered. This can help you decide where you want to go with your own research.**

**Step 1:** Use Google Scholar, EBSCO or another database to find **2 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources on each of your topics (4 sources total)**. Y’all... if any of you turn in a journalistic source for this annotated bib, there is no saving you. Seriously. Anyways, when trying to pick the articles that you want to read and analyze, work smarter, not harder. “Mine” the articles for key phrases and messages that interest you. When mining for information, it is best to read the first two pages of an article and the last two pages (right before the reference section) to get a good idea about the major points of the study. You should try to pick studies that offer differing findings/perspectives on your topic, because, you know, “proper research” things.

**Step 2:** Generate APA formatted citations for each source. [Here is the formatting for the only templates you will need moving forward in this class... just kidding! Kind of.](#)

**Step 3:** Read and analyze the scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles that you have chosen, and write a 150-200 word annotation paragraph underneath the citations that you created for each source. Your annotation should include the following:

- A.** Evaluate the authority and background of the author
- B.** A summary of the significant findings or key information from the source
- C.** Identify the method used to collect data and information
- D.** A statement of how feasible it would be for you to mirror or modify such a method for gathering data/information for your own eventual research question

Remember that you have additional access to EBSCO to find scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. You can log in to your College Board EBSCO access through the Digital Portfolio.

**P.S. Look at all of these cute sentence starters/phrases I found for you to use!!! Yay!**

Phrases for the Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review						Phrases for the Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review					
advanced the notion of ...	commenting on _____, explained ...	displayed indifference to ...	executed a study on ...	gave credence to ...	introduced the idea of ...	attested to ...	confirms the work of ...	established a connection between ...	focused on ...	identified and reported ...	presented a clear evaluation of ...
affirmed the fact ...	concentrated on ...	drew a parallel between ...	explored the subject of ...	has shown ...	measured the impact of ...	called attention to ...	developed the conceptual framework for ...	established a connection to ...	gave attention to ...	identified the problem of ...	presented a strong argument ...
affirmed the work of ...	conclude that...	elaborated further and revealed that ...	expressed the view of ...	highlighted another problem ...	noted a major discrepancy ...	cited the need for ...	discovered in his studies that ...	established a convincing case ...	gave a description of ...	illustrated the problems of ...	presented evidence of ...
arrived at the conclusion in her study that ...	conducted a study of ...	emphasized the plausibility of ...	failed to consider ...	hypothesize that... because...	pointed out ...	clarified the point that ...	discussed the problem of ...	examined the effect of ...	gave cognizance to ...	in a more recent study, explored ...	raised the question of ...

<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>	
Topic 1, Article 1	
Topic 1, Article 2	
Topic 2, Article 1	
Topic 2, Article 3	

**This entire packet should be completed by the first day of class. We have a very busy semester ahead of us! Please upload your packet to**

Turnitin.com (same account as AP Seminar) by the first day of class.

We'll get through this together, I promise!

