

AP Research Summer Assignments ~ 2024

Your primary goal this summer is to brainstorm topic ideas and narrow your focus so that when you come back to school, you have a topic – even though it will most likely need fine-tuning. We're all at different places with this, so start where you personally need to start. For the field research section, start where you are in your process then move through the categories.

Assignment 1: Field Research

Category 1: I Have No Idea What My Topic Will Be: Take the first few weeks of the summer and every day, pick a few stories to read from a credible news source, like the *New York Times* or local papers like the *AJC*. Don't only read the news section: read Arts and Entertainment, Sports, etc. – whatever interests you. Rotate your news source (NPR is an excellent source for less mainstream topic ideas). Keep a list of articles and fields that you are interested in. Once you've found one that speaks to you, move on to category 2.

Category 2: I Know My Field If you know the academic field or area of research you want to pursue, look at topics within that field. Read and listen to various news sources, dig, and identify two potential topics within your field of choice. For each topic option, do some reading and reflecting. Write a paragraph about each topic and include 1) what seems to be out there in the way of usable material, 2) the benefits to researching each topic, and 3) the drawbacks to researching each topic. Move on to category 3.

Category 3: I Know My Basic Topic Begin searching to see what has already been written on your general topic. 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?

Create a 3-source annotated bibliography (you'll be able to add on to this next year) that includes at least 2 peer-reviewed articles or case studies. All 3 sources should be credible enough to use down the road. In addition, type answers to the following questions on your topic:

- **Is this topic feasible to research (is there existing, credible research on this topic that I can draw from)?**
- **What kind of study could I conduct on this topic?**
- **What are some options for making my study *original*?**
- **What might impede my being able to conduct a study on this topic in 7 months?**
- **Would my study be best executed with human participants or with strictly content?**
- **What resources or support would I need to be able to conduct a study on this topic?**

Assignment 2: Practical Research Reading (start this in June, as these chapters will help you narrow your topic)

Read Chapters 1 and 2 of *Practical Research*: **Chapter 1: The Nature and Tools of Research / Chapter 2: The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process**

Take detailed notes as you read (typed or handwritten). These will be checked for a grade the first week of school, but you'll want them to refer back to also, so make sure you are thorough!

Below is what you should walk in with on the 2nd day of school (August 2nd):

- 3-source annotated bibliography, APA format (typed)
- Answers to the 6 questions above (typed)
- Detailed notes on chapters 1 and 2 of *Practical Research* (typed or neatly hand-written)