

# AP Capstone Research Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Research! I recognize that the summer offers an opportunity to unwind and relax, and I encourage you to do just that. However, in order to prepare yourself for the upcoming course, I ask that you complete the following summer assignment.

The summer assignment has **one part** which will require a computer with access to the Internet. You have TWO months to complete this assignment. This is a college level course where most coursework will be done digitally, so “I do not have a computer/internet/printer” is not an acceptable excuse.

## Assignment 1: Field Research

Your primary goal beginning now and continuing 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. Below is the research part of your summer assignment: read through and complete each category before moving on to the next one:

### Category 1: I Have No Idea:

Take a few stories to read from a credible news source, like the New York Times. Rotate your news source (NPR is an excellent source for less main-stream topic ideas). Create a jot list of articles (including date and author) that peak your interest and add to that list each week – I recommend creating a Google doc. At some point, try to start narrowing your field and only reading articles in that field. By the end of June, look through your list of articles and narrow to 2-3 topics that really appeal to you. Move on to category 2.

### Category 2: I Know My Field:

Once you know the academic field or area of research you want to pursue, spend some time looking at topics within that field. Read and listen to various news sources, do some digging, 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) benefits to researching each topic, and 3) drawbacks to researching each topic. Move on to category 3.

### Category 3: I Know My Basic Topic:

Begin searching to see what’s already been written on your general topic. Your goal is to search for an untapped 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 five-source annotated bibliography (you’ll be able to add on to this next year) that includes at least two peer-reviewed articles or case studies. All five 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 seven 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?

This will all be due on the 2nd day of school. If you have any questions, be sure to email me at [ydelavega@pacehs.com](mailto:ydelavega@pacehs.com)