

## Welcome to AP Research!

Congratulations on completing AP Seminar and welcome to the second half of the AP Capstone! I'm excited about the year ahead. Now that you have mastered analyzing and evaluating sources to build and synthesize arguments, you will take the next step: designing your own original research inquiry.

While AP Seminar ends with synthesizing an argument from reputable sources, AP Research begins with you developing a research question of your own. Your final goal will be to present your findings in a 4,000-to-5,000-word academic paper, along with an oral presentation and defense. But remember, it's the **process** of research—curiosity, exploration, and persistence—that will help you grow the most as a student.

Over the summer, it will help to start thinking about topics that truly interest you. You will spend the school year researching a question of your choice, so it's important to find something you're passionate about. The best way to find your passion is to EXPLORE and DISCOVER, so your AP Research project is the following:

Our summer project is to develop a scrapbook (collections) of questions about 6 different "sources." Ideas for sources (you are not limited to this list): documentary films, concerts, newspaper or magazine articles, nonprofit organizations, museum exhibits, historical sites, botanical gardens, athletic events, the mall, state and national parks, places of worship, conversations with interesting people, plays, ceremonies, social media, restaurants, podcasts etc.

*(Try to visit places or do something, but if you can't, the internet is a helpful resource. For example, I recently saw a TikTok about a cafe in South Korea where you can drink tea while playing with meerkats, so then I needed to know why meerkats were in South Korea and whether they make good pets and what they eat. You NEVER know what might trigger a desire to do some research).*

### **Prepare one page for each source (you will have 6 sources total). Include:**

- A short explanation of the source and the circumstances of your visit/interest
- Any relevant, thought provoking images
- Most importantly, try to conjure up as many questions related to the source in as many disciplines\* as you want (your goal: at least 5 questions per source). We will share ideas amongst ourselves, so even if it doesn't interest you, it could spark something for one of your classmates.

### **\*A discipline is also known as a field of study. The six disciplines that AP Research uses are:**

- **Art** (paintings, sculptures, literature, music, dance, architecture, film, theater): communicates thoughts and emotions in a creative way, uses skill and imagination to form aesthetic products/productions
- **Math**: uses quantitative interpretation of real world conditions to explain how the universe behaves, creates models and theories that allow even more complex devices to be created
- **Social Science** (includes economics, psychology, politics, linguistics, anthropology, cultural studies, etc.): studies how humans function individually and as a group/society, including how different circumstances change behaviors
- **Physical/Natural Science** (also known as Hard Sciences, includes chemistry, biology, physics, environmental science, etc.): tries to explain how the universe (planet) functions and sometimes attempts to solve problems, finds patterns in the natural world
- **Humanities**: studies how different people experience life, explores the values of different cultures
- **History**: studies the causes and effects of historical events to help understand times, trends, wars, tensions, social problems, etc.

**DUE DATE: Scrapbook with six source pages is due the first day of school.** Note: I am not picky about the format. You can use whatever program you wish to create your scrapbook (Google Slides, Word Docs, PowerPoint, etc.). It can also be a physical submission.

Points: 72 points

Example:

#### Source #1: Yosemite National Park



**Explanation:** This is one of America's best known national parks. I'm not truly sure why though – it's pretty, but other than hiking, you spend most of the day looking for places to park. After visiting, I think I'm more interested in human aspects of the park.

**Circumstances:** I visited the park in June for three days with my family.

#### Questions I Thought Of

1. **Physical/Natural Science:** Could the "bear dog" program they have (uses a particular breed of dog to chase off and repel nuisance bears from populated areas so they don't have to be euthanized) be copied and used in urban places in Arizona for nuisance coyotes or bobcats?
2. **Social Science:** What is the ratio of foreign visitors to American citizens? Follow up: What is the main reason foreign visitors go to the park (what are their expectations)?
3. **Art:** Which famous national park has more published photographs – the Grand Canyon or Yosemite?
4. **Art/Social Science:** How realistic are image searches of Yosemite – are the photographs online accurate, or is the reality of the park a lot more crowded and dirty?
5. **History:** The guide said there are unmarked First American burials all over the valley floor. Is there a record or map of who is there? Is there any value in creating that?
6. **Social Science:** Does their social media presence actually drive visitors to the park, or do they come just because it's famous?
7. **Humanities:** There's a law prohibiting the collection of eagle feathers in that area. Does this law impact the traditions of the First American people in the area? Are they or should they be exempt and what is required to prove exemption?
8. **Physical/Natural Science:** Did the larger than normal amount of rainfall this year have any impact on this year's fire season?
9. **History:** Who is the oldest person buried in the cemetery; how hard is it to get records of this person's life and death if I wanted to do an ethnography?