**AP Research Summer Assignment**

Dear AP Research Student,

Congratulations on completing AP Seminar, and welcome to the second half of Capstone! I am excited about the year ahead. This year, we will continue with the QUEST Framework (College Board, 2016). Now that you have mastered the skills to analyze and evaluate sources to synthesize your argument, you will design a research inquiry original to you. Seminar ended with your synthesis of an argument based on reputable sources – this is where AP Research begins. You are not required to build upon your Seminar projects, but you may do so if you enjoyed them.

In AP Research, your path will look something like this:

Your end goal will be to present your findings in an academic paper along with a presentation and oral defense. However, as corny as this may sound, it is the PROCESS of research that will be most important in your growth as a student rather than the product. Most of you will experience challenges, but they will all be manageable and surmountable with help from your peers and from me – couple that with a healthy dose of positive self-talk, and you’ll have grown into a Research Master.

The goal of this assignment is to help you determine your research topic for your AP Research course. The most important thing about your topic is that it is *interesting to you personally*. Do not choose a research topic simply because it sounds academic or like someone else would think it is interesting. You will be spending the whole year on this project – it will be a more difficult year if you do not like your topic. In addition to reflecting your personal interests, your research should be relevant to a broader audience than high school students and teachers. Consider how someone outside of our school setting may benefit from your research as you explore potential topics. According to the College Board (2016), some areas you may want to consider are:

* Natural Sciences, Technology, Mathematics, Environment
* Social Science, Politics, Economics, Psychology
* Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theater)
* Culture, Languages, Linguistics
* History
* Literature, Philosophy, Critical Theory/Criticism

Through this assignment, you will be guided to consider your interests in all areas. Past research students have studied political trends, public health, environmental sciences, movies, music, technology – even comic books and video games. The sky is (almost) the limit.

I’m sure you’re asking about details at this point. For this assignment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

* Download the assignment here or use the QR code to the right: <https://tinyurl.com/NCAPRSummer>
* Please fill in the document using the word processor of your choice (a Word document and Google Docs document are available at the link). The documents do not provide enough space for handwritten content.
* Although we will discuss research topics on the first day of class, this assignment will be due the second day of AP Research: Wednesday, August 4th (A) or Thursday, August 5th (B).
* Please bring a PRINTED copy to class on your due date (you do not need to print this letter). If you do not have a printer, please be sure to arrange printing options on the first or second day of school (i.e. go to the Magnet Lounge, go to the Media Center, etc.)
* It is best practice to treat this document as a living document that you reflect upon and add to throughout the summer, but I estimate it will take about one hour to complete. Try to avoid completing it in one sitting to allow maximum reflection time.
* This information will provide me with an opportunity to get to know you. Be sure to give it your best! Capitalization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and thoughtful reflection matter!

You will not take this journey alone. You may reach out to me this summer. The best way to reach me will be through our course remind. Please text @NCAPR2021 to 81010 to join. You may also email me at my school Gmail account: [johnsonscienceclasses@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonscienceclasses@gmail.com). If you reach out, please be sure to let me know who you are. Please be advised that I only sporadically check my Cobb County email account during the summer.

I am so excited to get to know each of you and support you throughout the next year. I hope you have a fantastic summer!

Happy Researching!

Ms. Johnson

**AP Research Summer Assignment Researcher Name:**

1. Describe your seminar projects (what were your research questions/goals of each?):
   1. Performance Task 1: Team Project and Presentation
   2. Performance Task 2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation
2. Are you interested in pursuing any of your topics further? Explain.
3. In the table below, write a detailed list in each column. This list is about YOU. Please don’t include what you think I want to hear. Number or bullet the list. Please list AT LEAST a total of 12 entries in the table. There is no limit to how much you can write in this section. Each column should have at least one entry, but *you do not need to have an equal number of entries in each column*.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| List your interests and hobbies: | List your favorite subjects/courses/concepts you’ve learned in school: | List your extracurricular activities (sports, community involvement, music, clubs/organizations, work, etc.) |
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1. In the table below, list five current events (occurred in the last 12 months) in any field that interests you. You may include more than five current events. Simply add more rows to the table. Explain your interest in detail.

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| --- | --- |
| Current Event | Explanation of Interest |
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1. From the two lists above (including your AP Seminar Projects), select the top 5 things you are most interested in. Explain what interests you most about those five activities or subjects in the table below.

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| --- | --- |
| Interest/Activity/Topic | Explanation of interest |
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1. For each of the five activities or subjects, write three questions or curiosities you have about that activity or subject. Please bullet or number the list of curiosities in each row.

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| --- | --- |
| Interest/Activity/Topic Name: | Three questions/curiosities about each activity or subject: |
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1. A research topic is the area of interest that will guide your research. It should not be too broad, but it should not be so specific that you cannot find previous information to guide your inquiry. An example of a research topic might be “the role of music in fetal development” (a note of disclosure about this topic: direct research on fetuses cannot be completed as part of our course). Choose three of the questions or curiosities you listed that are most intriguing to you. What research topic could emerge from this curiosity? You are not committing to a research topic by writing it below.

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| --- | --- |
| Question/Curiosity Name | Potential Research Topic |
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1. Before diving into a research topic, you should consider the feasibility, the scope, and the value of the research (Lott, 2016):

* Feasibility: There are some limits to our research. Cost, time, your age, access, and ethics will limit the type of research you can do.
* Scope: What variables, area of focus, context, or participants would be valuable for this topic? Will you study countries, people, animals, concepts or theories? How broad or narrow will your focus be?
* Value: What would the topic add to our current knowledge? Would it provide new knowledge or extend our knowledge of a particular topic? What gap in our knowledge might it fill?

For three of the questions, curiosities, or topics listed above, address feasibility, scope, and value in the table below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic/Question/Curiosity | Feasibility of a Possible Inquiry | Scope of Possible Inquiry | Value of Possible Inquiry |
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1. With all research, it is important to consider what we know already and what we need to know to understand the topic better. For each of the topics you listed in the last section, describe what you know and what you need to know about each topic. Please make a list of your knowledge and things you need to know. These lists should be as detailed as possible. If you don’t know much about the topic, your “additional information” column should be quite full.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Research Topic | What do you already know about this area of study that helps you understand it? | What additional information do you need to understand this topic? |
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