

AP Research Explore Summer Assignment - 2025

Welcome to AP Research!

I'm so excited that you've chosen to take this journey, and I'm so excited to be taking this journey with you! This is the fourth year this course is being taught at Leon High, and I am excited to see where this next year takes us.

What is AP Research?

In AP Research you will deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue or idea of individual interest. It is super important to choose something that you have a genuine interest in because you will spend a majority of the year researching the topic of your choice. This year you will design, plan and implement a year long investigation to address a research question. In AP Seminar, you reported on research that had previously existed and used this research to support an argument you were making. In AP Research, you will conduct the research and add to the current body of knowledge in your topic. You will want to find a mentor in your topic area that can help guide you through this process and help educate you in your particular field. As you begin to investigate topic areas, you may want to start thinking of potential mentors that would be a good fit for you.

This will be due at the end of the first week of school. Do not procrastinate!

I look forward to working with you very soon. I will be checking my email during summer, so feel free to contact me if you feel concerned, bewildered, overwhelmed, confused, frustrated, or any combination of the previously listed.

Mr. Read

readr@leonschools.net

TASK 1: SUMMER READING REFLECTIONS

Complete the following reflections prior to the start of AP Research. These reflections are purposefully driven to help you make the jump from AP Seminar to AP Research. Class begins in the fall, you will add them to your PREP (Process and Reflection Portfolio), a tool required by College Board that will help you stay organized in this year-long process. Please include the question when providing your responses. **Responses should be at minimum a paragraph per question and should exhibit your ability to provide supporting textual and experiential evidence as well as reflective and perceptive discussion. (Click [here](#) for source.)**

Text: Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2018). Practical Research: Planning and Design. (12th ed.). New York: Pearson.

Title of Reading	Pages	Reflections
"What Research is Not"	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What surprised you in this section? Why?• According to this section, how is AP Seminar different from AP Research?

“What Research is”	2-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What part of this section interests you? Why? • According to this section, how is AP Research an extension of AP Seminar?
--------------------	-----	--

Part B: Get to Know Yourself

Think Holistically: For this section and do a little research on [NPR](#), [JStor Daily](#), [INSPIRE](#), another reliable database, or consider topics you learned about in your other classes. List at least 2-3 general areas of interest in each category. Your answers can be bullet-pointed phrases.

If you find a source you LOVE, be sure to save the link! (this could be helpful later!)

Question	Answer
Look up topics related to art or culture (music, 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 the business world. What interests you?	
What are some current political issues in the U.S. that interest you?	
What are some current political issues globally that interest you?	
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 topics in that field?	
What are some current ideas/issues happening in the world of technology?	
What are some current issues in education?	

Think Introspectively For this section, just answer the question. These can come from you or from your topic exploration but they don't have to. Your answers should be a few sentences each.

Question	Answer
What is your favorite book? Movie? Why? (yes you can have more than 1)	
What career are you considering pursuing?	
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?	
In what ways do people surprise you?	

Part C: Explore Assignment

You will begin the **Question & Explore** phase of your research project that will culminate in a final paper and presentation at the end of the year. The Question & Explore phase requires you to read critically, pose questions, and identify issues that compel you. **During this phase, you should explore a topic or topics that interest you. These can be ones you reflected on throughout part B.**

You may use a variety of sources for your exploration including but not limited to **podcasts, documentary films, in depth newspaper and magazine articles, museum exhibits, historic sites, botanical gardens, state and national parks, places of worship, concerts, plays, religious ceremonies, radio broadcasts, interviews with subject experts** (i.e. a scientist or researcher, a historian, a public official, etc.), **archives**, and **books**. You may also incorporate your exploration into any summer vacations you attended this past summer. For example, if you visited another city, and visited a museum or historic site you can reflect on that visit in your journal.

The most important objective is to explore sources on topics that genuinely interest you and keep a journal of what you learned and your reflections on possible research connections.

Please note: The goal of this assignment is for you to begin exploring research topics. I DO NOT expect you to have a topic by the first week of class. However, the closer you are to identifying a topic or topic area, the more time you will have to actually work on your research project next year.

★★ You must have at least **FOUR** sources. **A book of at least two hundred pages will count as two sources.** Any combination of sources is acceptable – your curiosity should be your guide! ★★

This is not expected to be read in a week and a half- you can use old books you may have read previously, as long as it is something you are truly interested in!

Your Explore assignment should be typed and submitted to canvas. Your Explore Assignment should include these basic elements **for each source**:

- **Type of source** (newspaper/magazine article, podcast, museum, park, book, interview, documentary)
- **Title or name of article, book, film, site, exhibit, individual, etc.**
- **URL (if applicable)**
- **Creator, author, producer, director, (if applicable)**

- **Location (if it is a place you visited)**
- **Date of creation or publication (if applicable).**
- **Description and keywords:**
 - What topics or issues were explored in the source?
 - What is the context of this source?
 - What are some keywords you could use to find additional information on this topic?
 - You may also include other modes of documentation such as photography, video, and audio recording as long as YOU produce the documentation. For example, you may choose to record an interview or photograph a historic site but DO NOT download images or video from the web.
- **Your reflections:**
 - What interested you about this source?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have?
 - How is this source connected to a personal area of interest or inquiry?
 - **What are possible research topics related to this source?**
- **OPTIONAL: Additional Sources:** What are THREE additional sources you could use to continue your research. For each additional source, provide the title, URL (if it is a website) and any other information necessary to secure this as a potential source in the future. (10 Points EC for each additional Source for up to 30 points).
 - Your first in class assignment is a source collection project, so the more the better! Be sure to be saving all of the sources for future reference!

NOTE: THIS WILL BE MORE USEFUL WRITTEN IN JOURNAL FORM AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE WRITTEN AS AN ESSAY. BE THOROUGH AND THOUGHTFUL AND HAVE FUN ♥♥♥

Rubric for AP Research 2022 Explore Assignment(220 Points Total): Question & Explore.

Grade for Part A & B (120 Points):

- Every Component worth 5 Points and answered fully as directed.

Grade For part C (100 Points): Each source will be worth 25 points. 10 points for the source itself plus another 15 points for the quality of the reflection for each source. Your assignment will be graded on these criteria:

Source Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Lacking
# of Sources	4	3	2	1
Source Identifiers: Must be enough to find the source if needed for additional information.	Type, title or name, and at least two other identifiers like URL, physical location, creator, producer, author, or date	Includes type, title, name and at least one other identifier	Includes type, title, and at least one other identifier	Includes only one identifier.
Source Descriptors & Keywords: Describe the topics and issues explored and the context of the source. List 3-5 keywords that you could use to find additional information.	The description summarizes the main ideas, topics, and context of the source and includes 3-5 key words or phrases.	The description summarizes the topics but may lack specific information or context or important key words.	The description is overly general and lacks information about the issues and context. Key words are overly general or lacking.	Missing descriptive sentences.
Reflections: What interested you about this source? What did you learn? What questions do you have? What are some related topics?	The reflection includes why you were interested in this source, what you learned, a question or questions you have and at least one related topic	The reflection includes most of the elements but lacks a question or a related topic or why you were interested.	The reflection lacks several elements.	Missing a reflection.