

# AP Research Summer Assignment

## Ms. Sipe

Congratulations! You're more than halfway toward the AP Capstone Diploma. Here is your summer assignment.

1. Read and highlight chapters 1 and 2 of *Practical Research*.
2. Explore the links below to get an idea of what it means to be a researcher in the humanities and liberal arts:

University of Washington

<https://english.washington.edu/what-humanities-research>

Washington University in St. Louis

<https://libguides.wustl.edu/c.php?g=47166&p=2848788>

Research Net

<https://researchmethod.net/what-is-humanities-research/>

University of Chicago

<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/Inquiryresearchhumanities/>

Princeton University

<https://www.princeton.edu/research/humanities>

3. Read over one of the sample high scoring papers on the class page and complete the student exemplar analysis for 100 points.
4. Begin reading about topics of interest. Locate, read, analyze and print a minimum of 10 sources from scholarly journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, Google Scholar, etc). Construct an annotated bibliography on Noodle Tools for your sources for 100 points (see next page for more details)

You need to decide the depth of your commentary that will best help you as a researcher.

## Research Stages

Before you begin, decide in which stage of the research process you fall:

**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*. 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 main-stream topic ideas). At some point, try to start narrowing your field, and move on to Category 2. Fields can include:

- The Arts
  - Music
  - Visual Art
  - Dance
  - Theatre
- Literature
- Religious Studies
- Food Studies
- Technology
- Cultural Studies
  - American Studies
  - Irish / Italian / Asian / Latino / Black / Gender / LGBT
- Film & Media Studies
- History
- Philosophy & Ethics
- The Social Sciences
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
  - Economics
  - Government & Political Science

**Category 2: I Know My Field:** If 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 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 10-source annotated bibliography that includes at least 2 peer-reviewed articles or case studies.** All sources should be credible enough to use down the road.