

AP Research Summer Assignment

Within the first month of this class, you will be required to choose your research topic. You will spend the entire year investigating what you choose to study, so you want to ensure that it is a topic you are interested in. To prepare, you will develop 3 potential research questions and conduct background research for each.

The most significant difference between Seminar and Research is that you will be required to conduct your own research. The goal is to gather data about one of the areas that the existing research for your topic does not address. With that being said, your research question will need to be one that is realistic: you will need to have access to the sample you will study. To put this in perspective, if you wanted to research if classical music impacts students' work productivity, then your sample would be students. This would be a realistic research topic as you have access to students. Don't immediately rule out an idea because the sample size is not easy to access- be creative! On the other hand, don't choose a research topic that you know you will not be able to access.

Read the information below to help guide you with this process:

A research question is the core of a research project, study, or review of the literature. It centers the study, sets the methodology, and guides all stages of inquiry, analysis, and reporting.

A research question starts with a research problem, an issue that you would like to know more about or change. Research problems can be:

- Areas of concern
- Conditions that need to be changed
- Difficulties that should be erased
- Questions that need to be answered

A research problem leads to a research question that:

- Is worth investigating
- Contributes knowledge & value to the field
- Improves educational practice
- Improves humanity

There are 3 steps to drafting a research question/purpose statement.

Step 1. Draft a research question.

Example: What effects did 9/11/01 have on the future plans of students who were high school seniors at the time of the terrorist attacks?

Example (measurable) Questions: Did seniors consider enlisting in the military as a result of the attacks? Did seniors consider colleges closer to home as a result?

Step 2. Draft a purpose statement.

Example: The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of the 9/11/01 tragedy on the future plans of high school seniors.

Below are the three documents that you need to complete. As you gather information, keep a list of your sources as they might prove to be useful in the future- links are fine. For the questions, feel free to organize your answers whatever way is comfortable for you. It is important that you put full effort into this so we can hit the ground running in September. I look forward to working with all of you. If you have any questions, my e-mail is apizzuti@bergenfield.org.

Research Topic 1

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Form

Please fill out the following information based on your background reading for developing your research topic and question.

Background Reading Sources

- Encyclopedia/Reference Entries (Options - Wikipedia, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Britannica, Topic Specific Encyclopedias, etc.)
- Newspaper/Periodical Articles (BBC, NPR, Washington Post, Economist, The Atlantic, The National Review, etc.)
- Op-Ed Pieces (In above sources)

Background Reading Findings:

1. Important Events connected to my topic:
2. Important Terms and their definitions connected to my topic:
3. Important Court Cases, Policies, Legislation, or Regulation connected to my topic:
4. Important People, Organizations, or Agencies connected to my topic:
5. Important Studies or Statistics involving my topic:
6. What does the research not address?

Research Topic 2

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Form

Please fill out the following information based on your background reading for developing your research topic and question.

Background Reading Sources

- Encyclopedia/Reference Entries (Options - Wikipedia, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Britannica, Topic Specific Encyclopedias, etc.)
- Newspaper/Periodical Articles (BBC, NPR, Washington Post, Economist, The Atlantic, The National Review, etc.)
- Op-Ed Pieces (In above sources)

Background Reading Findings:

1. Important Events connected to my topic:
2. Important Terms and their definitions connected to my topic:
3. Important Court Cases, Policies, Legislation, or Regulation connected to my topic:
4. Important People, Organizations, or Agencies connected to my topic:
5. Important Studies or Statistics involving my topic:
6. What does the research not address?

Research Topic 3

Research Question:

Purpose Statement:

Background Reading Form

Please fill out the following information based on your background reading for developing your research topic and question.

Background Reading Sources

- Encyclopedia/Reference Entries (Options - Wikipedia, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Britannica, Topic Specific Encyclopedias, etc.)
- Newspaper/Periodical Articles (BBC, NPR, Washington Post, Economist, The Atlantic, The National Review, etc.)
- Op-Ed Pieces (In above sources)

Background Reading Findings:

1. Important Events connected to my topic:
2. Important Terms and their definitions connected to my topic:
3. Important Court Cases, Policies, Legislation, or Regulation connected to my topic:
4. Important People, Organizations, or Agencies connected to my topic:
5. Important Studies or Statistics involving my topic:
6. What does the research not address?