

AP Research Summer Assignment (all work is due on September 12)

Your summer reading assignment will have 3 components which are aligned with the requisite skills for the course.

TASK ONE: Read the below text and then complete the following reflection questions. These reflections are purposefully driven to help you make the jump from AP Seminar to AP Research. **Responses for each section should be written in a separated, well-developed paragraph that provides supporting textual (direct quotations) and experiential (prior knowledge) evidence to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the content.**

Text: Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2015). "Chapter 1." *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. (11th ed.). New York: Pearson.

“What Research is Not” - *What is one misconception about research that is addressed in this section?*

“What Research Is” - *Which of the statements about what constitutes research was applied during AP Seminar?*
- *Which of the statements about what constitutes research was **not** applied (or done so minimally) during AP Seminar?*

“Philosophical Assumptions” - *Out of the three philosophies discussed (positivism, postpositivism, realism), which most connects to your own philosophy about knowledge? Why?*

“Tools of Research” - *Which of the following tools of research discussed (library resources, computer technology, measurement, statistics, language) do you feel you best utilized in your AP Seminar coursework?*
- *Which of the following tools of research (library and its resources, computer technology, measurement, statistics, language) do you feel were absent or under utilized in your AP Seminar coursework?*

“Human Mind” - *How does critical thinking justify undertaking research that may have already been conducted?*
- *How do deductive and inductive logic differ? Why are some academic disciplines (subjects) suited to primarily using one type of logic while others may incorporate both types?*

“Reflections on Noteworthy Research” - *Using Figure 1.3 (Common Pitfalls in Human Reasoning), which of the pitfalls listed might be the most difficult for a researcher to overcome? Why?*

TASK TWO: Review 3 different AP Research papers from this [collection](#). These papers are designed to familiarize you with the components of the AP Research paper which can be found [here](#). **Choose one of the papers from the collection and write an analysis of it that is supported by relevant textual references using the following format:**

- Introductory Paragraph: Overview of the paper (**GUIDING QUESTION:** *What was the objective of the research conducted?*)
- Body Paragraph 1: Strengths of the research design (**GUIDING QUESTION:** *What specific choices made by the researcher - research question, evidence, method, selected results - were effective in developing a new understanding about the paper's topic? Why were these choices effective?*)
- Body Paragraph 2: Strengths of the paper structure (**GUIDING QUESTION:** *What specific choices made by the researcher - organizational patterns, word choice, headings, charts/graphs, transitions - were effective in conveying the new understanding about the topic? Why were these choices effective?*)
- Conclusion: Personal Reflection (**GUIDING QUESTION:** *What component(s) of the AP Research paper do you feel you have a better understanding of after reading the paper? What component(s) of the AP Research paper do you still have questions about after reading the paper?*)

TASK THREE: Read the introduction and first two chapters of *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell by clicking [here](#). These excerpts model the QUEST (questioning, understanding, evaluating, synthesizing, transforming) framework that you will employ in your own research. It is advisable to download it as a Kami Document or print it out so that you can annotate it as well. On the first day of class, students will submit 3 questions/observations about the text that will be the basis for a Socratic Seminar to be held the first week of school. In addition to the anecdotal accounts that make up the reading, areas of focus that might generate dialogue include, but are not limited to, the following: *questioning established beliefs, connecting variables, formulating theories, misconceptions about success, predictors of achievement.*