

AP Capstone™

Advanced Placement Research Summer Assignment

Mrs. Orrego

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Greetings Future Researchers!

I have decided to shorten and streamline the summer work this year. The idea behind it is you already have a solid working topic, either from our time together or on your own over the summer. It is my goal that we hit the ground running in August and have an easier year for it!

You are choosing ANY topic that interests you; specifically, one that has not been over-done and can sustain your interest for an entire year. Remember, it should be **feasible** – so think through the logistics of your process ahead of time and make sure we can reach your project goals by the end of the year. **Remember - Your purpose here is to identify a GAP in the current field of knowledge and attempt to ask and answer a question that has never before been researched.**

For your topic please develop the following:

Problem Statement – You will need to do additional online research to craft a truly effective problem statement – You should identify a problem, state why it is important, and what you plan to do about it! – Think – Who? What? When? Where? Why? (You’ll also apply this to your method.) This will serve as the basis of your Introduction later.

Working Research Question and Hypothesis – A well-written problem statement will help you develop a research question/objective which will eventually drive your entire year. (No pressure!) What are you attempting to accomplish with your topic of inquiry? Remember – you must think about how you will answer this question/meet the objective with an effective **METHOD**. – For the Hypothesis - What do you think you’ll find with your inquiry?

Potential Method – How will you answer your RQ/test your hypothesis? Please refer to the attached “Research Methods in a Nutshell” sheet with the different types of methods – if one type interests you, do some additional research to determine how that would answer your RQ – write a brief overview of what type of method you would choose, how you would use it, and why it would be a good choice. *Again, Think – Who is involved? What do you seek to accomplish? When will this take place, over how long? Where - location? Why is this the BEST choice for your inquiry? Costs?*

Five Sources – Must be a combination of 2-3 popular (reputable news reports) and 2-3 Scholarly (see scholar.google.com or JSTOR) – write a brief synopsis with an appropriate citation for each. Seek conflicting viewpoints because you need multiple perspectives in your paper.

Due Date: August 16, 2019

****All work should be typed and done to the best of your ability – all sub-par work will be given a zero – you may re-do but will receive a maximum of **HALF** credit.*

****Email me with questions – I will be out of town on AP Scholar Day this year*

Choosing Your Research Method in a Nutshell

By James Rice and Marilyn K. Simon

Research Method	Brief
Action research	Participatory - problem identification, solution, solution review
Appreciative inquiry	Helps groups identify solutions
Case Study research	Group observation to determine how and why a situation exists
Causal-comparative research	Identify causal relationship among variable that can't be controlled
Content analysis	Analyze text and make inferences
Correlational research	Collect data and determine level of correlation between variables
Critical Incident technique	Identification of determining incident of a critical event
Delphi research	Analysis of expert knowledge to forecast future events
Descriptive research	Study of "as is" phenomena
Design based research/ decision analysis	Identify meaningful change in practices
Ethnographic	Cultural observation of a group
Evaluation research	Study the effectiveness of an intervention or program
Experimental research	Study the effect of manipulating a variable or variables
Factor analysis	Statistically assess the relationship between large numbers of variables
Grounded Theory	Produce a theory that explains a process based on observation
Hermeneutic research	Study the meaning of subjects/texts (exegetics is text only) by concentrating on the historical meaning of the experience and its developmental and cumulative effects on the individual and society
Historical research	historical data collection and analysis of person or organization
Meta-analysis research	Seek patterns in data collected by other studies and formulate principals
Narrative research	Study of a single person's experiences
Needs assessment	Systematic process of determine the needs of a defined demographic population
Phenomenography	Answer questions about thinking and learning
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Q-method	A mixed-method approach to study subjectivity - patterns of thought
Regression-discontinuity design (RD)	Cut-off score assignment of participants to group (non-random) used to study effectiveness of an intervention
Repertory grid analysis	Interview process to determine how a person interprets the meaning of an experience
Retrospective record review	Study of historic data collected about a prior intervention (both effected and control group)
Semiology	Studies the meaning of symbols
Situational analysis	Post-modernist approach to grounded theory (holistic view rather than isolated variables) by studying lived experiences around a phenomenon
Trend Analysis research	Formulate a forecast based on regression analysis of data
True Experimental research	Structured research with isolated variables and controls