

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026 - Grade 11/12 (AP Research)**

TO DO TO BEGIN:

1. Create a Google Folder on your Xavier account and label it: AP RESEARCH
2. Create a Google Folder inside your AP RESEARCH folder and label it SUMMER WORK
3. [Make a copy of this document for yourself](#) and transfer it into your SUMMER WORK folder.
4. Please fill in information on this document by typing.
5. This work will be handed in through a Course Canvas assignment during the first week of class.
6. This assignment is your starting place for your year-long research project and is a way to record how you come up with your research idea. Further, consider this assignment a place to store your initial annotations and research findings. It will be really important to do this work with intentionality and care so that you set yourself up for success this coming year!

NOW – FIGURING OUT THE TOPIC

AP Research Summer Assignment – Researcher Name:	
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Stage 1: What are my interests? 9 points

1. In the table below, write a detailed list in each column. This list is about YOU. Please don't include what you think I want to hear. Number or bullet the list. Please list AT LEAST a total of 12 entries in the table. There is no limit to how much you can write in this section. Each column should have at least one entry, but you do not need to have an equal number of entries in each column. Shoot for 12 total or more.

<i>List your interests and hobbies:</i>	<i>List your favorite subjects/courses/concepts you've learned in school:</i>	<i>List your extracurricular activities (sports, community involvement, music, clubs/organizations, work, etc.)</i>

2. Take the Personality / Career Quiz @ [OpenColleges.edu](https://www.opencolleges.edu) (You will need your results for #3 below):
<https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/careers/career-quiz> 9 points

3. Reflect and explore your results from #2 and list your top 3 choices for potential careers:

<i>Potential Careers (Top 3)</i>	<i>Degree(s) needed to pursue the career(s)</i>	<i>Key Issue(s) / problem(s) relevant to the career</i>
1		
2		
3		

4. In the table below, list five current events (occurred in the last **12 months**) in any field that interests you. (Consider starting with TikTok or other sources you use...like your parents or online newspapers like [1440 Daily Digest](#)) You may include more than five current events. Simply add more rows to the table. Explain your interest. 10 points

Current Event	Explanation of Interest

5. From the lists above (#1, #3, #4 and including your AP Seminar Projects), select the top 5 things you are most interested in. Explain what interests you most about those five activities or subjects in the table below. Remember, you are doing this for yourself as much as you are doing it for me. 10 points

Interest/Activity/Topic	Explanation of interest

6. For each of the five activities or subjects (from #5), write at least two questions or curiosities you have about that activity or subject. Please bullet or number the list of curiosities in each row. 15 points

Interest/Activity/Topic Name:	Two questions/curiosities about each activity or subject:
1.	1. 2.
2.	1. 2.
3.	1. 2.
4.	1. 2.
5.	1. 2.

2

7. A research topic is the area of interest that will guide your research. It should not be too broad, but it should not be so specific that you cannot find previous information to guide your inquiry. An example of a research topic might be “the role of music in fetal development” Choose three of the questions or curiosities you listed that are most intriguing to you. What research topic could emerge from this curiosity? You are not committing to a research topic by writing it below.

Question/Curiosity Name	Potential Research Topic 6 points

Stage 2: Begin the Search – Field Research

- As you are moving closer to choosing a particular field of study and a research question you wish to explore, search to see what has already been written on your general topic. If you can narrow yourself down to a field of study, you can then locate a “hot topic” or problem/issue that comes out and interests you. Go to Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) and search up work that has been done about hot topics that interest you. This could include a link to resources if you want to easily locate them. Try to briefly describe the problems/issues you are finding in this initial research. Again, you are trying to narrow things down. **What are researchers spending time studying?**

You need at least THREE

Field of Study: 6 pt	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 1	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 2	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 3	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 4	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 5	

- 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? This might include exploring a topic of interest based on High School students (rather than college students) or looking at an educational issue from the standpoint of Jesuit education rather than public school education, etc.) - you need at least THREE

*** What is my interest / untapped/ unexplored angle on each topic? 6 pt	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 1	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 2	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 3	

Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 4	
Hot Topic / Problem /Issue within that Field # 5	

3. Once you land on a hot topic that needs to be explored, Create a preliminary list of 20 sources (you'll be able to add on to this next year) on your chosen topic of field study. You do not have to read them all yet, but they should be relevant, so DO read the abstract.
- a. Sources should be credible enough to use down the road, meaning Tier 1 or 2. If you find news media, etc., try to follow the information upstream to the original research.
 - b. **Consider the following questions:**
 - i. Is this topic feasible to research (is there existing, credible research on this topic that I can draw from)?
 - ii. What kind of study could I conduct on this topic?
 - iii. What are some options for making my study original?
 - iv. What might impede my being able to conduct a study on this topic in 7 months?
 - v. Would my study be best executed with human participants or with strictly content?
 - vi. What resources or support would I need to be able to conduct a study on this topic?

Below is a list of 20 sources on my chosen topic of field study - use title, author and hyperlink: 20 pt.
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.

15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.

Stage 3: Narrow the Search – Focus the Study

1. Looking at all of the information you’ve gathered thus far, focus your study by selecting a hot topic / current issue within a particular field.
2. Using the research you have done from the previous stage, select **12-15** sources as a course of study surrounding this chosen topic/issue. You may have to do additional research at this stage as your topic is more specific now.
3. Fill-out this information in the table that follows (**i.e., copy and paste from the list above**):

My Field / Career of Study:	
Current Hot Topic / Issue / Problem within this field:	
Below is my course of study surrounding this Current Hot Topic / Issue / Problem:	
1.	

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.

Stage 4: Summer Reading Analysis - Read the directions below before you begin the annotations!

1. Over the summer, critically read and annotate **five (5)** of the 12-15 selected resources listed above (Stage 3) You can do as many as you like, but the requirement is five, and you will have to do all in the beginning of the school year and should expect to have 20-30 sources by the end of the year.. Choose the five you want to read the most to get you started.
2. For each article, write a concise reflection about how the article connects to the hot topic/issue you are exploring.
3. Take your reflection and include it within an annotated bibliography for the 5 sources you chose.
4. At the end of your annotated bibliography, make a preliminary proposal for a research question. If you do not know a question at this point, please read a few more of the sources.

Sample Annotation:

Holland, Suzanne. The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy. Boston: MIT Press, 2001.

Human embryonic stem cells can divide indefinitely and have the potential to develop into many types of tissue. Research on these cells is essential to one of the most intriguing medical frontiers, regenerative medicine. It also raises a host of difficult ethical issues and has sparked great public interest and controversy. This book offers a foundation for thinking about the many issues involved in human embryonic stem cell research. It considers questions about the nature of human life, the limits of intervention into human cells and tissues, and the meaning of our corporeal existence. The fact that stem cells may be derived from living embryos that are destroyed in the process or from aborted fetuses ties the discussion of stem cell research to the ongoing debates on abortion. In addition to these issues, the essays in the book touch on broader questions such as who should approve controversial research and what constitutes human dignity, respect, and justice. The book contains contributions from the Ethics Advisory Board of the Geron Corporation; excerpts from expert testimony given before the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, which helped shape recent National Institutes of Health policy; and original analytical essays on the implications of this research.

Sample Research Question proposal: *Stem Cell Research: Will the struggle between science and ethics derail the future for medical innovation?*

Annotations (5 required): (50 points)

1. Citation:

Summary:

2. Citation:

Summary:

3. Citation:

Summary:

4. Citation:

Summary:

5. Citation:

Summary:

Write YOUR Research Question Proposal (You can propose more than one, 8 pt.):

If you have done this packet work with intention and focus, you should be ready to hit the ground running in AP Research in the fall. Can't wait!

