

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2025 - Grade 11/12 (AP Research)**

Dear AP Research Student,

Welcome to the second half of the AP Capstone! I am excited about the year ahead. This year, we will continue our journey using and building upon the skills you mastered in AP Seminar. To remind you, your experience in AP Seminar taught you to analyze and evaluate sources to synthesize your argument. Now, you will design an original research inquiry. AP Research basically begins where AP Seminar ends. You MAY keep going with your AP Seminar project if you wish, but many of you will want to investigate something new. [Make a copy of this document for yourself.](#)

In AP Research, your path will look something like this beginning this summer and extending throughout the school year:

**Consider a topic of interest → Collect background information → Find areas that have holes or needs for research/inquiry → Ask a question to guide your research inquiry → Formally design the Inquiry → Carry out the inquiry → Present your findings**

The work that you begin this summer will result in a formal academic paper, formal presentation and an oral defense of your findings. The end products are important, of course, but research is a process, and the process itself is where you will grow as a student. Expect a few obstacles, but recognize (as you figured out in Seminar) that you will get through them with support from your peers, guidance from me, and a healthy dose of personal commitment. It is going to be a lot of fun to work with all of you!

The purpose of this summer assignment is to help you develop a research question that will drive your AP Research project this coming school year. Above all else, your topic should be one that genuinely interests *you*. Avoid choosing a topic merely for its academic appearance or because it seems impressive to others or because it seems easy. Your ability to stick with this work all year will depend on your personal investment in the subject matter. You want to care about this work! [Make a copy of the assignment for yourself](#)

**College Board offers these areas of inquiry as a starting place for the AP Research student:**

- Natural Sciences, Technology, Mathematics, Environment
- Social Science, Politics, Economics, Psychology
- Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theater)
- Culture, Languages, Linguistics
- History, Literature, Philosophy, Critical Theory/Criticism
- Entrepreneurism / Business ethics / concerns

The assignment that follows guides you to look at areas of inquiry that are interesting for you. Note: Research students have studied political trends, public health, environmental science, movies, music, video games, and so much more...there are few limits on what you can do.

I can't wait to see you all in the fall - don't hesitate to reach out this summer if you need to ask a question.

Dr. Carr