**AP Research - Summer Work 2025**

**Welcome to AP Research! I am excited to work with you, and I hope you are ready to continue challenging yourself with the AP Capstone program. In order to best prepare for the AP Research course, you will be required to complete four assignments designed to help you better understand the class and create a Research Question which will be the basis of your year-long project and paper. Approach this assignment seriously as you will be expected to come to class with an idea of what field as well as what topic you plan to research. You should be thinking, rationalizing, internalizing, & discovering with each aspect of this assignment. Please complete each assignment in order, and save these in a Google doc with each assignment clearly labeled. This work will be uploaded to Canvas (and Turnitin.com) on the first day of class, August 4, 2025**

**Should you have any questions regarding this work, please contact me as follows: Williamson.shannon.r2@muscogee.k12.ga.us**

**About Plagiarism:**

**Please keep in mind that all of your assignments should be YOUR original work and your work ALONE. Do NOT be tempted to share answers with another student, plagiarize from the internet, or use AI. Should any student(s) be found guilty of plagiarizing, he or she will receive a zero on the summer reading assignment, will have his or her parents contacted, and will appear before the CHS Honor Council for further disciplinary action. As our school motto reads, “Commitment, Honor, and Success.” I expect your work to mirror your desire for personal success and academic excellence.**

**Assignment #1:**

Carefully read the Institutional Review Board requirements of Columbus High School, so you will have a clear understanding of the limitations surrounding your research studies.

* ***The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is designed to protect the rights and welfare of research involving human subjects in research activities. Since all students’ research proposals will require approval from the Columbus High School IRB, please keep these limitations in mind as you develop a research topic/question you are interested in pursuing.***
* **See Columbus High School’s IRB policy on the last two pages of this document.**
* **After carefully reading this document, list five takeaways you learned.**

**Assignment #2:**

Read 3 AP Research Sample Papers. Each of these papers belong to former Columbus High School students, and each received the highest score - 5 from College Board - with one earning a perfect score. As you read each of these studies, answer the following questions for each type: (Experimental, Correlational, & Content Analysis):

1. What discipline is represented in this paper? (medicine, science, etc.)

2. List each section of the paper, briefly summarize what each section contains, and describe its

purpose.

3. What is the style of the paper? (APA, MLA, etc.)

4. How many sources are used, and what are the majority of sources (journals articles, etc.)?

1. Experimental type: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10b8j_874HdBqjjk86cq96Jr0GVZLBeXr/view?usp=drive_link>

2. Correlational type: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JiGW0QNfYgzO2I6BmSnVk70_zBJpOpQd/view?usp=drive_link>

3. Content Analysis type: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10IEcsoxeE3XDlTqTTQ89jFWaevmsR0f/view?usp=drive_link>

**Assignment #3:**

* Similar to AP Seminar, College Board wants you to present your AP Research academic paper with a leading question; however, in AP Research this question is called a Research Question (RQ). The following concepts are things to consider when attempting to build an AP Research RQ: Focus, scope, value, and feasibility. Remember, the topic you decide to work with must hold your interest for the entire year.
* Focus – involves the discipline or area of focus – Art, History, Medicine, Humanities, etc.
* Scope – includes the depth and size of your research project – the setting, variables, people, situations, and/or concepts being studied or manipulated
* Value – considers what your study can add to the body of knowledge in your field
* Feasibility – Is it feasible your project can be conducted within the time allotted? Considerations also include the availability of necessary resources (people, etc.), access to data or materials you may need, etc.

After reading the sample papers, think of the following:

* What topics are you passionate about?
* What is something you are curious about?
* What is a problem you would like to solve or see solved?
* **List four topics you are interested in knowing more about:**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

* **For each of your topics listed above, read two scholarly peer-reviewed (set this as a criteria) journal articles using the CHS Media Center Course – Research - & Galileo. The rational here is – you must know what experts in the field already know or have researched to determine if your topic deserves further study. You will read 8 articles in all, and you can certainly read more should you choose. These peer-reviewed articles will be difficult reading, but plow through the academic jargon to become more familiar with the topic you are interested in.**
* **For each article, write a short summary including – the question, the approach/style, and the results and the conclusions. You should also include a correctly cited Bibliographic entry for each summary.**

**Assignment # 4:**

**Research Questions (RQs)**

Using the information gleaned from your research above, write 2 research questions for 2 selected topics:

Topic 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Question 1 |  |
| Question 2 |  |

Topic 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question 1 |  |
| Question 2 |  |

**Columbus High School**

**IRB Research Policy**

**2023-2024 School Year**

Regarding **AP Capstone Research Proposals**, the Columbus High School administration will **not** consider:

1. Sensitive topics such as drug use, sexual activity, family income, free and reduced lunch status, mental health & wellbeing, anxiety & depression, medical diagnosis, etc.
2. Research conducted during instructional time for students or contract time for employees
3. The release of individual student data to researchers (this includes student GTID number, social security number, student grades, student GPA, student rankings, attendance, test scores, and all other personal identifiable information (PII), etc.)
4. The release of information about families (info such as family status, divorce status, reports to Family & Children services)
5. Research with schools to which the researcher is not assigned
6. Data collection that asks for political affiliations
7. Data collection that evaluates job performance of a teacher, faculty member, or staff member

As a general practice, we do not encourage research projects that involve surveying currently enrolled Columbus High School students. CHS graduates and current CHS parents are okay to survey.

You may use any open records that are available through the GADOE portals.

About FERPA in Georgia

• FERPA is a Federal law that is administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office (Office) in the U.S. Department of Education (Department).

• FERPA applies to all educational agencies and institutions (e.g., schools) that receive funding under any program administered by the Department.

• Once a student reaches 18 years of age or attends a postsecondary institution, he or she becomes an "eligible student," and all rights formerly given to parents under

FERPA transfer to the student.

• Parents have the right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) regarding an alleged violation under FERPA.

• Parents have the right to file a complaint with the local education authority regarding an alleged violation under FERPA, Student Data Privacy, Accessibility and Transparency Act, or under any other state student data privacy or security laws.

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We will NOT approve any project that proposes to collect PII (personal identifiable information) from our currently enrolled students.

• What is Personal Identifiable Information (PII)?

Identifiable information that is maintained in the student’s education record and includes direct identifiers and indirect identifiers. Indirect identifiers are identifiers that, alone or in combination with other data, is linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the student with reasonable certainty.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Direct Identifiers  ➢ Name  ➢ Social security number  ➢ User names | Indirect Identifiers  ➢ Address of student or family, ➢ Telephone number, ➢ Email address, ➢ Parent or family members’ names, ➢ Birth date, ➢ Race ➢ Gender ➢ Grade Level |

SOURCE: <https://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Data-Collections/Documents/Data%20Collection%20Website/FY2018/GAEL%20-%20breakout%20Student%20Data%20%20Privacy%20and%20Security.pdf>