

Summer Assignment—AP Research

Bob Jones High School, Mrs. Scott (Fall 2019)

1. Purchase the book, *The Craft of Research* (University of Chicago Press, 2016), 4th edition. This is the one and only **REQUIRED** textbook for the course. New copies can be purchased on amazon.com for as low as \$13.79.

2. Read p. 3-48 in *The Craft of Research* as an active reader (that includes highlighting key ideas/points, making notes in the margins, processing what you are reading to make connections/better understand). These pages will help you understand what research is (and is not) and how to formulate a good research question that not only interests you but serves an important purpose and/or helps solve a particular issue. Formulating a good research question is a *process* that takes time. It is also *the first and most important task* in making the transition from AP Seminar to AP Research (that will also help ensure a successful final project and outcome for you).

3 Answer these additional questions as you read.

Chapter 1: Why is research important? Why should you write up research? Why should you write in an expected way?

Chapter 2: Why is knowing your audience important? What is your role in research?

Chapter 3: What is the difference in a subject and a topic?

Work through exercises in 3.1 to list ideas for topics, then continue on through steps in 3.2-3.4 to help you come up with research ideas/topics.

4. After working through the questions, guidelines and suggestions from p. 35-48 in *The Craft of Research*, come up with three possible *and feasible* research questions based on your interests that would add to the existing body of knowledge (and also answer the “so what?” question). These questions are completely of your choice. Take advantage of the opportunity to research into a topic that you are highly curious about or is a passion of yours!

a. Type your three possible research questions and briefly explain how each interests you.

b. Underneath each possible research question, hypothesize what you believe the conclusion will be (the outcome of your research findings). You do not need to do any fact-finding here. Do you think it will be feasible to conduct research on topic?

c. Underneath each possible research question, find at least two sources (do a quick literature search and find some credible sources on the topic) that may help provide evidence for your argument/proposed solution. List the source and provide a brief summary of the article.

d. Please attach parts 3-4 above in a document to our google classroom page (code: zjk6kjp) by **Tuesday August 7**. Also please print and bring a hard copy to the first day of class (August 7). This will be your first formative assessment/grade in the course. Please feel free to email me (dlscott@madisoncity.k12.al.us) any questions you may have about the assignment or beginning research process.

****We will spend much more time in class formulating and finalizing a good research question in hopes that each student will have a finalized question no later than September 1. This assignment is just step one to getting there. Again, coming up with a research question is the most important process in AP Research and may take several attempts and a decent amount of thinking up-front. Don't let that stop you. ☺ Be patient, take the process seriously, and make sure your question will interest you in the long-term. I also advise you to begin on this assignment as early as possible. The earlier you begin, the better for your research question (and the more you will gain from this course)!**