Congratulations on completing AP Seminar. Next year I have the pleasure and challenge of assisting you in conducting research and completing your final research paper and presentation. Not only will you complete your own research, but you will gain an understanding of college level, graduate level, and professional level research processes, as well as, how research and results are shared with others in relating fields. I look forward to working with you. Your required summer assignment is attached.

Sincerely,
Dr. Shelli A. Barton

AP Capstone Research requires you to dive into an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. You will further develop the skills you acquired in the AP Seminar course by conducting a thorough literature review (research) of a topic. Then you will understand a problem relating to your topic by conducting your own Research; employ ethical research methods and practices; and access, analyze, and synthesize results as they address your Research question. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words and a presentation with an oral defense during which you will answer questions about your academic paper before April 30th of the upcoming school year.

While the topic of each research study will vary, the course requires you to plan and conduct a study or investigation, using the following skills:

1) Investigating relevant topics, composing insightful problem statements, or developing compelling research questions (considering scope) to extend thinking
2) Demonstrating perseverance through setting goals, managing time, and working independently on a long-term project
3) Identifying, applying, and implementing appropriate methods for research and data collection
4) Accessing information using effective strategies
5) Evaluating the relevance and credibility of information from sources and data
6) Reading a bibliography for the purpose of understanding that it is a source for other research and for determining context, credibility, and scope
7) Attributing knowledge and ideas accurately and ethically, using an appropriate citation style
8) Evaluating strengths and weaknesses of others’ inquiries and studies

Important Deadlines:

- Weekly Readings and Reflections DUE each FRIDAY
- August 12 Summer Assignment
- Sept 15 Locate a teacher mentor, professional/expert in your area of interest
- October 2 Initial Annotated Bibliography
- October 30 Intro/Literature Review/Research Question DRAFT
- November 4-6 Proposal Form and Intro/Lit Review
- November 30 Method & Procedure
- December Ethical Issues/IRB Section
- Jan-Feb Conduct study, research, gather data, etc.
- March Results and Discussion section
- April 10 – April 30 Final Papers and oral defense
1) Read “Research Methods: the Basics” by N. Walliman Chapter 1.

Define the following terms using the reading and information from the reading only:

A. Research

B. Research Method (you may have to google items a-c)
   a) Qualitative Research
   b) Quantitative Research
   c) Mixed-Method

C. Research Design
   a) Historical
   b) Descriptive
   c) Correlational
   d) Comparative
   e) Experimental
   f) Simulation
   g) Evaluation
   h) Action
   i) Ethnological


Think about your writing based on your stimulus packet in seminar. Was your writing deductive reasoning or inductive reasoning? Explain/justify your answer in 3-5 sentences.
3) Read “Research Methods: the Basics” by N. Walliman Chapter 3 pages 29-33.

Define Research Problem (per page 32)

4) Watch one of the videos in this play list:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGM8otd0J-4&list=PLxr1f4Fd8XKOpJRBYsG7QyEsW3hZ-CfLD

A. What was the primary research problem

B. What was the primary research question

C. What method did the student use?

D. How did they use previous research (literature review) to support their study?

E. How did the data they collected help to understand the research problem/question?

5) In AP Capstone Seminar you have conducted reviews of existing literature on various topics. In AP Capstone Research you will conduct a literature review in order to support your own original research topic, purpose of your study, your research question, method, and procedures. Understanding how a thorough literature review will help you in this process is covered in chapter 5.


A) According to the authors, what is the purpose of a literature review?

B) List 5 important aspects of conducting a literature review (found across pages 56-62)
6) List two general subjects or specific topics that interest you that may be a topic you’d like to explore for your year-long research project. Please take your time with the topics and select something that really interests you. Research topics for AP Capstone Research vary greatly. You may even begin to talk to teachers and/or professionals about your ideas and get input and advice.

7) LOCATE and print two articles (one for each topic listed above). These must be an overview of a topic of interest to you (reviews of literature in the field). These should only be pulled from peer reviewed databases in our library or the public library databases. Print these and attach them to your summer assignment. HIGHLIGHT topics that interest you in each article in yellow.

8) Locate and print two research studies from 2010-2020 (one for each topic listed in item 5). This may not be magazine article. These should only be pulled from peer reviewed databases in our library or the public library databased. Print these and attach them to your summer assignment. HIGHLIGHT the following in your articles (in something other than yellow).

- sentences that link the literature review to the purpose of their study
- researcher’s question or purpose of the study
- the method of research used to conduct the study
- important findings