



Course and Exam Description

# AP<sup>®</sup> Research

Part of the AP Capstone<sup>™</sup> Program

Effective for the **2015-16** School Year



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AP RESEARCH:

In order to offer AP Research, schools must be authorized by the AP Program as a participating AP Capstone school and teachers must attend mandatory training. AP Research may only be offered as the second course in the AP Capstone sequence, following AP Seminar.

See [collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://collegeboard.org/apcapstone) for details.

Effective Fall 2015



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## About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT<sup>®</sup> and the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

## AP<sup>®</sup> Equity and Access Policy

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP<sup>®</sup> programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Schools should make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

First Reprint

Revised to include expanded AP Capstone plagiarism policy.

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## About AP®

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.

Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course, and college and university faculty play a vital role in ensuring that AP courses align with college-level standards. Talented and dedicated AP teachers help AP students in classrooms around the world develop and apply the content knowledge and skills they will need later in college.

Each AP course concludes with a college-level assessment developed and scored by college and university faculty as well as experienced AP teachers. AP Exams are an essential part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level course work. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States and universities in more than 60 countries recognize AP in the admissions process and grant students credit, placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. Visit [www.collegeboard.org/ap/creditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/ap/creditpolicy) to view AP credit and placement policies at more than 1,000 colleges and universities.

Performing well on an AP Exam means more than just the successful completion of a course; it is a gateway to success in college. Research consistently shows that students who receive a score of 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers<sup>1</sup>. Additional AP studies are available at [www.collegeboard.org/research](http://www.collegeboard.org/research).

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<sup>1</sup>See the following research studies for more details:

Linda Hargrove, Donn Godin, and Barbara Dodd, *College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences* (New York: The College Board, 2008).

Chrys Dougherty, Lynn Mellor, and Shuling Jian, *The Relationship Between Advanced Placement and College Graduation* (Austin, Texas: National Center for Educational Accountability, 2006).

## Offering AP Courses and Enrolling Students

Each AP course and exam description details the essential information required to understand the objectives and expectations of an AP course. The AP Program unequivocally supports the principle that each school implements its own curriculum that will enable students to develop the content knowledge and skills described here.

Schools wishing to offer AP courses must participate in the AP Course Audit, a process through which AP teachers' syllabi are reviewed by college faculty. The AP Course Audit was created at the request of College Board members who sought a means for the College Board to provide teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on curricular and resource requirements for AP courses and to help colleges and universities validate courses marked "AP" on students' transcripts. This process ensures that AP teachers' syllabi meet or exceed the curricular and resource expectations that college and secondary school faculty have established for college-level courses. For more information on the AP Course Audit, visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcourseaudit](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcourseaudit).

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Schools should make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

## How AP Courses and Exams Are Developed

AP courses and exams are designed by committees of college faculty and expert AP teachers who ensure that each AP subject reflects and assesses college-level expectations. To find a list of each subject's current AP Development Committee members, please visit [press.collegeboard.org/ap/committees](http://press.collegeboard.org/ap/committees). AP Development Committees define the scope and expectations of the course, articulating through a curriculum framework what students should know and be able to do upon completion of the AP course. Their work is informed by data collected from a range of colleges and universities to ensure that AP coursework reflects current scholarship and advances in the discipline.

The AP Development Committees are also responsible for drawing clear and well-articulated connections between the AP course and AP Exam — work that includes designing and approving exam specifications and exam questions. The AP Exam development process is a multiyear endeavor; all AP Exams undergo extensive review, revision, piloting, and analysis to ensure that questions are high quality and fair and that there is an appropriate spread of difficulty across the questions.

Throughout AP course and exam development, the College Board gathers feedback from various stakeholders in both secondary schools and higher education institutions. This feedback is carefully considered to ensure that AP courses and exams are able to provide students with a college-level learning experience and the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications for advanced placement upon college entrance.

## How AP Exams Are Scored

The exam scoring process, like the course and exam development process, relies on the expertise of both AP teachers and college faculty. While multiple-choice questions are scored by machine, the free-response questions are scored by thousands of college faculty and expert AP teachers at the annual AP Reading. AP Exam Readers are thoroughly trained, and their work is monitored throughout the Reading for fairness and consistency. In each subject, a highly respected college faculty member fills the role of Chief Reader, who, with the help of AP Readers in leadership positions, maintains the accuracy of the scoring standards. Scores on the free-response questions are weighted and combined with the results of the computer-scored multiple-choice questions, and this raw score is converted into a composite AP Exam score of 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1.

The score-setting process is both precise and labor intensive, involving numerous psychometric analyses of the results of a specific AP Exam in a specific year and of the particular group of students who took that exam.

Additionally, to ensure alignment with college-level standards, part of the score-setting process involves comparing the performance of AP students with the performance of students enrolled in comparable courses in colleges throughout the United States. In general, the AP composite score points are set so that the lowest raw score needed to earn an AP Exam score of 5 is equivalent to the average score among college students earning grades of A in the college course. Similarly, AP Exam scores of 4 are equivalent to college grades of A–, B+, and B. AP Exam scores of 3 are equivalent to college grades of B–, C+, and C.

## Using and Interpreting AP Scores

College faculty are involved in every aspect of AP, from course and exam development to scoring and standards alignment. These faculty members ensure that the courses and exams meet colleges' expectations for content taught in comparable college courses. Based upon outcomes research and program evaluation, the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Advanced Placement Program recommend that colleges grant credit and/or placement to students with AP Exam scores of 3 and higher. The AP score of 3 is equivalent to grades of B–, C+, and C in the equivalent college course. However, colleges and universities set their own AP credit, advanced standing, and course placement policies based on their unique needs and objectives.

AP Score	Recommendation
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation

## Additional Resources

Visit [apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org) for more information about the AP Program.

## About the AP Capstone™ Program

AP Capstone™ is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP® courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research and inquiry in order to produce and defend their scholarly work.

The AP Capstone program aims to empower students by

- ▶ engaging them with rigorous college-level curricula focused on the skills necessary for successful college completion;
- ▶ extending their abilities to synthesize information from multiple perspectives and apply skills in new situations and cross-curricular contexts;
- ▶ enabling them to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision;
- ▶ cultivating their abilities to craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments; and
- ▶ providing opportunities for them to practice disciplined and scholarly research skills while exploring relevant topics that appeal to their interests and curiosity.

## Research Base

The big ideas and learning objectives in the AP Capstone program reflect the core academic skills needed for college, career, and life readiness identified by leading educational organizations and College Board membership, including the following:

- ▶ The American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), *College Learning for the New Global Century, Essential Learning Outcomes*
- ▶ Advanced Placement Program, skills and practices identified in AP courses
- ▶ The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21), *A Framework for 21st Century Learning*
- ▶ Association of College and Research Libraries, *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*
- ▶ Council of Writing Program Administrators, *Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing*

# The AP Capstone Diploma™ and AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

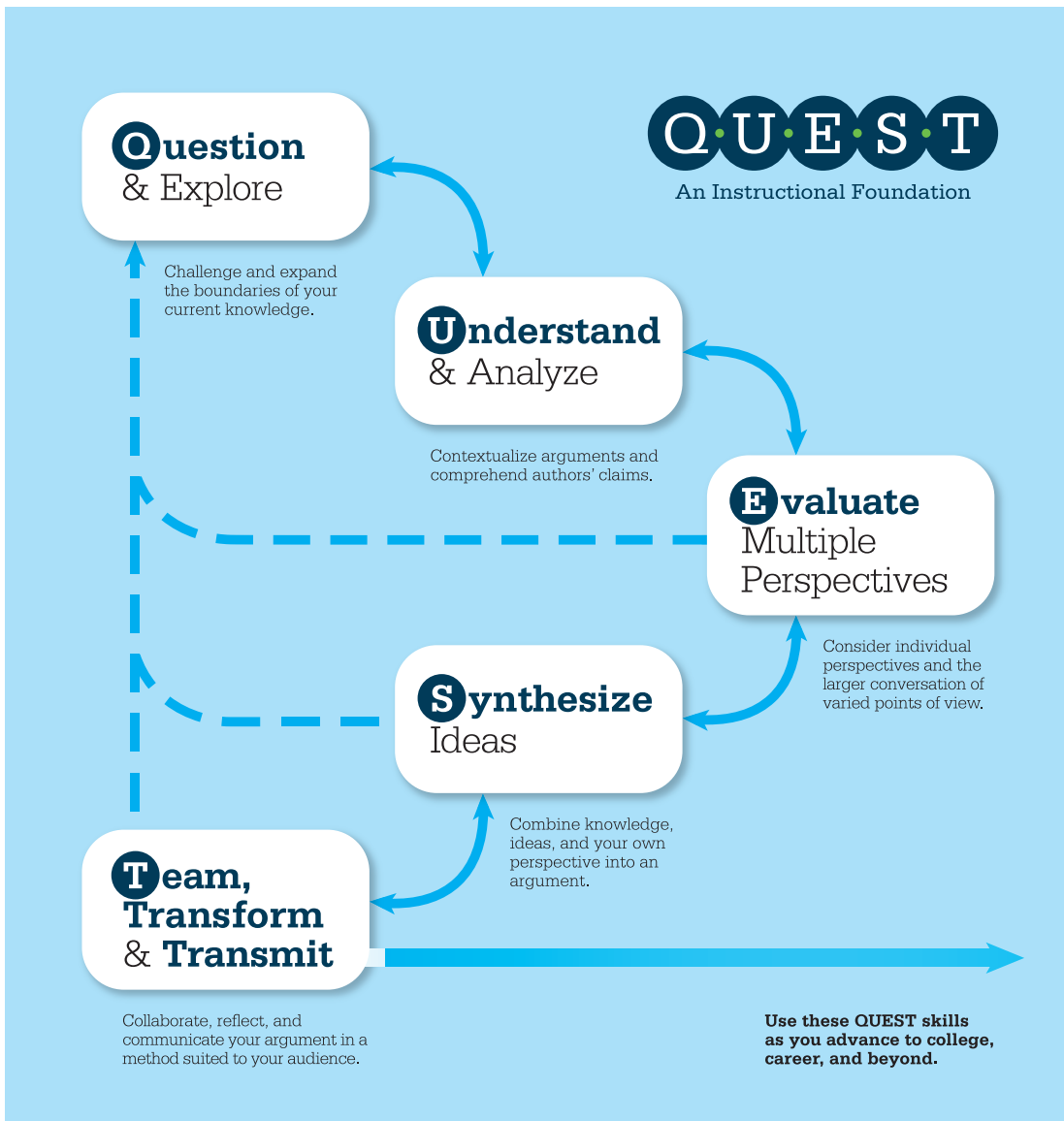
Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



# AP Capstone Pedagogical Framework

## Overview of the Pedagogical Framework

Throughout the program, students consider and evaluate multiple points of view to develop their own perspectives on complex issues and topics through inquiry and investigation. The AP Capstone program provides students with a framework that allows them to develop, practice, and hone their critical and creative thinking skills as they make connections between various issues and their own lives. Teachers should help students understand that this process is recursive, not linear. The recursive nature of this process allows students to go back and forth between the different stages of inquiry as they encounter new information.



## Reasoning Processes

The AP Capstone program allows students to develop and practice reasoning processes that help them to make intentional, strategic decisions. It is important for teachers to understand these reasoning processes, which are embedded within the learning objectives:

- ▶ **Situating** — being aware of the context of one’s own as well as others’ perspectives, realizing that individual bias can lead to assumptions
- ▶ **Choosing** — making intentional and purposeful choices, realizing that choices have both intended and unintended consequences
- ▶ **Defending** — being able to explain and justify personal choices, logic, line of reasoning, and conclusions
- ▶ **Connecting** — seeing similarities within and across disciplines, concepts, and cultures that may at first seem disparate



# AP Research Course Description

*(Note: AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research.)*

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of approximately 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

# AP Research Curricular Requirements

The curricular requirements are the core elements of an AP course. The curriculum framework and supporting documents provided during professional development serve as resources to assist teachers in determining the appropriate level of evidence to include within their syllabi to meet or exceed the requirements. (All AP Research teachers must attend College Board AP Research intensive training prior to their first year of teaching the AP Research course.)

Evidence of the following curricular requirements should be included in the course syllabus developed by the teacher and submitted to the College Board for review and approval.

- ▶ In the classroom, students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives of the enduring understandings within the following five big ideas:
  - › Question and Explore
  - › Understand and Analyze
  - › Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
  - › Synthesize Ideas
  - › Team, Transform, and Transmit
- ▶ In the classroom and independently (while possibly consulting with a mentor or expert in the field), students learn and employ research and inquiry methods to develop, manage, and conduct an in-depth investigation of an area of personal interest, culminating in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words that includes the following components:
  - › Introduction
  - › Method, Process, or Approach
  - › Results, Product, or Findings
  - › Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation
  - › Conclusion and Future Directions
  - › Bibliography
- ▶ Using a process and reflection portfolio (PREP), students document their inquiry processes, communication with their teachers and consultants, and reflections on their thought processes. They have scheduled conferences with their teachers for review and approval of their scholarly work as evidenced by the portfolio.
- ▶ Students present (using appropriate media) and defend the topic of inquiry/research question, approach, and findings or product to a panel.

# AP Research Curriculum Framework

## Overview of the Curriculum Framework

Based on the Understanding by Design (Wiggins and McTighe) model, this curriculum framework is intended to provide a clear and detailed description of the course requirements necessary for student success. This conceptualization will guide the development and organization of learning outcomes from general to specific, resulting in focused statements about content knowledge and skills needed for success in the course. The curriculum framework contains the following structural components:

- ▶ The course is organized around five **big ideas**. Tied to each big idea are several **essential questions**. These are open-ended questions that encourage students to think deeply about a topic, ask additional questions and investigate solutions, and develop the deeper conceptual understanding that the course seeks to foster. Teachers should communicate to students that these big ideas are not meant to represent a linear progression of research processes but instead are a recursive set of ideas and skills that the student researcher will strengthen by the end of the research process.
- ▶ Within each big idea are several **enduring understandings**. These are the long-term takeaways related to the big ideas that a student should have after exploring the content and skills. These understandings are expressed as generalizations that specify what students will come to understand about the key concepts in the course. Enduring understandings are numbered to correspond to each big idea. The enduring understandings for the AP Seminar and AP Research courses are the same.
- ▶ Linked to each enduring understanding are the corresponding **learning objectives**. The learning objectives articulate what students need to be able to do in order to develop the enduring understandings. The learning objectives will become targets of assessment for the course. Learning objectives are numbered to correspond with the appropriate big ideas and enduring understandings.
  - › Learning objectives in italics with a blue shaded background represent those from the AP Seminar course that are not assessed in the AP Research course.
  - › Learning objectives with a green shaded background are those that do carry over from the AP Seminar course and should be used to develop instructional strategies and/or will be formally assessed by the summative assessment task components of the AP Research course.
- ▶ For each of the learning objectives, **essential knowledge** statements describe the facts and basic concepts that a student should know and be able to recall in order to demonstrate mastery of the learning objective. Essential knowledge components are numbered to correspond with the appropriate big ideas, enduring understandings, and learning objectives.
  - › Essential knowledge statements in italics with a blue shaded background are those from the AP Seminar course that do not carry over into the AP Research course.
  - › Essential knowledge statements with a green shaded background are those that do carry over from the AP Seminar course into the AP Research course.

## Big Idea 1: Question and Explore

Inquiry and investigation begin when students encounter information about ideas, complex issues, and problems that stimulates their intellectual curiosity. They then continue the research process by developing a critical question about one or more of those complex issues or ideas. Seeking answers to such questions requires exploration of numerous, often competing perspectives; the context surrounding those perspectives; and the reliability and credibility of the perspectives. Through this exploration, students begin to develop their own perspectives, rather than simply accepting those of others. They consider the purpose of their research — what is supposed to be achieved and why. Ideally, they also develop additional questions that lead to further inquiry. The intrinsic value of asking and answering questions cannot be overstated. Giving students the opportunity to dig deeper and feed their curiosity makes for meaningful discoveries and discussions.

### Essential Questions

- ▶ How might others see the problem or issue differently?
- ▶ What questions have yet to be asked?
- ▶ What do I want to know, learn, or understand?
- ▶ How does my research question shape how I go about trying to answer it?
- ▶ How does my project goal shape the research or inquiry I engage in to achieve it?

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.1:</b> Personal interest and intellectual curiosity inspire investigation of topics or issues that may or may not be clearly defined. A well-crafted investigation explores the complexity of an issue or topic. Further <b>inquiry</b> can lead to unexpected <b>conclusions</b>, resolutions, innovations, or <b>solutions</b>.</p>	<p><b>LO 1.1A:</b> <i>Identifying and contextualizing a problem or issue.</i></p> <p><b>LO 1.1B:</b> <i>Posing complex questions and seeking out answers that reflect multiple, divergent, or contradictory perspectives.</i></p>	<p><b>EK 1.1A1:</b> <i>Examining the perspectives and ideas of others often leads to questions for further investigation. Inquiry begins with narrowing scope of interest, identifying a problem or issue and its origins within that scope, and situating the problem or issue in a larger <b>context</b>.</i></p> <p><b>EK 1.1B1:</b> <i>Strong research questions are open-ended and lead to an examination, taking into account the complexity of a problem or issue.</i></p> <p><b>EK 1.1B2:</b> <i>The inquiry process allows one to draw upon curiosity and imagination to engage with ideas or explore approaches to complex issues.</i></p>

**Note:** The first time words from the glossary are used in the curriculum framework tables, they appear in blue text. The glossary begins on page 64.

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.1:</b> Personal interest and intellectual curiosity inspire investigation of topics or issues that may or may not be clearly defined. A well-crafted investigation explores the complexity of an issue or topic. Further <b>inquiry</b> can lead to unexpected <b>conclusions</b>, resolutions, innovations, or <b>solutions</b>.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 1.1C:</b> Identifying a topic of inquiry.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.1C1:</b> Topics of inquiry may come from personal interest, passion for a discipline/field, desire to better understand a topic, or desire to address an issue in the world.</p> <p><b>EK 1.1C2:</b> The inquiry process involves exploring the knowledge base associated with the topic of interest, including a variety of <b>perspectives</b>, and adjusting the scope of the topic to the parameters, requirements, and resources available for the project.</p> <p><b>EK 1.1C3:</b> Inquiry allows for the discovery of connections that can increase curiosity or understanding and lead to further questions.</p>
	<p><b>LO 1.1D:</b> Articulating the purpose and significance of the scholarly inquiry.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.1D1:</b> Scholars explore, explain, and create.</p> <p><b>EK 1.1D2:</b> The purpose of scholarly inquiry is to address various kinds of problems (e.g., practical, theoretical, interpretive, aesthetic) and/or corroborate, challenge, or extend an existing idea.</p> <p><b>EK 1.1D3:</b> Scholarly inquiry should be situated within a broader understanding of the scholarly community and of importance and relevance to that community.</p>
	<p><b>LO 1.1E:</b> Developing and revising a focused research question/project goal.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.1E1:</b> A research question/project goal emerges from the scholar’s purpose (i.e., to explore, explain, and create).</p> <p><b>EK 1.1E2:</b> A research question/project goal often requires multiple revisions to ensure it is appropriate in terms of scope and feasibility (time, resources).</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.2:</b> Strengthening understanding of a concept or issue requires questioning existing ideas, using what is known to discover what is not known, and making connections to prior knowledge.</p>	<p><b>LO 1.2A:</b> Retrieving, questioning, organizing, and using prior knowledge about a topic.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.2A1:</b> Understanding comes not only through collection of information but also from a variety of other factors (e.g., experience, external sources, cultural context, <b>assumptions</b>).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.2A2:</b> A variety of strategies (e.g., brainstorming, concept mapping, prewriting, exploration of space, drafting) can be used to illustrate, organize, and connect ideas.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.2A3:</b> Inquiry confirms or challenges one’s existing understandings, assumptions, beliefs, and/or knowledge.</p>
<p><b>EU 1.3:</b> The investigative process is aided by the effective organization, management, and selection of resources and information. Appropriate technologies and tools enable the scholar to become more efficient, productive, and credible.</p>	<p><b>LO 1.3A:</b> Accessing and managing information using effective strategies.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.3A1:</b> Information used to address a problem may come from various secondary sources (e.g., articles, other studies, analyses, reports) and/or primary sources (e.g., original <b>texts</b> and works, material culture, or personally collected data such as from experiments, surveys, questionnaires, interviews, observations, personal narratives).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.3A2:</b> Online databases (e.g., EBSCO, ProQuest, JSTOR, Google Scholar) and libraries catalog and house secondary and some primary sources.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.3A3:</b> Advanced search tools, Boolean logic, and key words allow scholars to refine, focus, and/or limit their searches based on a variety of factors (e.g., date, peer-review status, type of publication).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.3A4:</b> Consulting the bibliographies of other sources may provide additional ideas or resources.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.3A5:</b> Social media may be used as a potential source of information, but an understanding of its limitations is necessary to maintain <b>credibility</b>.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.3:</b> The investigative process is aided by the effective organization, management, and selection of resources and information. Appropriate technologies and tools enable the scholar to become more efficient, productive, and credible.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 1.3A:</b> Accessing and managing information using effective strategies.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>EK 1.3A6:</b> Software (e.g., Microsoft Word, EndNote) and online tools (e.g., citation generators, WorldCat) are used by scholars to manage and catalog sources and produce bibliographies.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 1.3B:</b> Evaluating the relevance and credibility of the source of information and data in relation to the inquiry.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.3A7:</b> Software and online tools (e.g., SurveyMonkey, SPSS) can be used to survey participants and analyze large data sets.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.3B1:</b> The scope and purpose of one’s research and the credibility of sources affects the generalizability and the <b>reliability</b> of the conclusions.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.3B2:</b> Credibility of <b>evidence</b> depends on use of sources and data that are relevant and reliable (current, authoritative).</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.3B3:</b> Determining the credibility of a source requires considering and evaluating the reputation and credentials of the <b>author</b>, publisher, site owner, and/or sponsor; understanding and evaluating the author’s perspective and research methods; and considering how others respond to their work. Scholarly articles are often peer-reviewed, meaning the research has been reviewed and accepted by disciplinary experts.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.3B4:</b> When gathering data on individuals’ behaviors, attitudes, and preferences, the accuracy and <b>validity</b> of such data depends on the honesty, memory, and reliability of the respondents and/or observers as well as the design of the data collection instrument.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.4:</b> There are multiple ways to investigate questions, problems, and issues. Methods should be aligned with the purpose of the inquiry.</p>	<p><b>LO 1.4A:</b> <i>Identifying the information needed and selecting appropriate strategies to find or collect it.</i></p>	<p><b>EK 1.4A1:</b> <i>The way the problem is posed, situated, framed, or contextualized will guide the inquiry process and influence the type of information needed and appropriate method of gathering it.</i></p>
	<p><b>LO 1.4B:</b> Designing, planning, and implementing a scholarly inquiry.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.4B1:</b> Methods for data collection, analysis, innovation, and/or interpretation should be aligned with the research question/project goal.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B2:</b> Methods of inquiry may include research methods (e.g., <b>qualitative</b>, <b>quantitative</b>, or mixed) or artistic processes (e.g., generating, conceptualizing, testing, and then refining aesthetic approaches).</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B3:</b> Throughout the process of determining scope and feasibility, the scholar may, where appropriate, adjust the course of inquiry and/or develop different tools, methods, and processes.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B4:</b> Artistic processes can include elements of research methods as well as the exploration and shaping/reshaping of media and form through activities such as <b>workshopping</b>, storyboarding, composing, choreographing, staging, and model-making.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B5:</b> Based on the research question or project goal, methods of data or information collection may be qualitative (e.g., open-ended survey questions, interviews, observational notes, interpretation of texts); may be quantitative (e.g., precise measurements, modeling, using structured and validated data collection instruments and procedures); or could include a combination of both qualitative and quantitative (mixed).</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B6:</b> Scholars analyze data or information in a variety of ways appropriate to the inquiry.</p>



<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.4:</b> There are multiple ways to investigate questions, problems, and issues. Methods should be aligned with the purpose of the inquiry.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 1.4B:</b> Designing, planning, and implementing a scholarly inquiry.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>EK 1.4B7:</b> Scholars identify reasons for choosing a sample of information, a population, or artifacts and understand the limits of the inferences or conclusions made based on the sample chosen.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B8:</b> Descriptive or inferential statistics can be used to display and/or analyze data.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B9:</b> Scholars often organize and categorize (or <b>code</b>) data/information to identify patterns or themes.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4B10:</b> Scholars can combine qualitative and quantitative data/information to <b>triangulate</b> and corroborate trends, patterns, correlations, and/or themes.</p>
	<p><b>LO 1.4C:</b> Demonstrating perseverance through setting goals, managing time, and working independently on a long-term project.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.4C1:</b> Scholars carefully plan methods of inquiry, analysis, and other <b>feasible</b> research activities, taking into account deadlines, priorities, risks, setbacks, and the availability of others.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4C2:</b> Scholars learn that setbacks are inevitable; they need to focus on the essential goals of the inquiry or project and be prepared to try alternate approaches or look to other disciplines in order to achieve them.</p>
		<p><b>EK 1.4C3:</b> Experts in the field may provide guidance and/or discipline-specific knowledge or perspective. Scholars must understand how to seek advice while maintaining self-sufficiency.</p>

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<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 1.4:</b> There are multiple ways to investigate questions, problems, and issues. Methods should be aligned with the purpose of the inquiry.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 1.4D:</b> Employing ethical research practices.</p>	<p><b>EK 1.4D1:</b> Scholars have ethical and moral responsibilities when they conduct research.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.4D2:</b> There are laws, rules, and guidelines that govern the conduct of researchers, in particular when studies involve humans and animals. Accordingly, scholars gain approval to conduct research with humans through an institutional review board (IRB).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 1.4D3:</b> There are copyright and patent laws and guidelines that govern the use and reproduction of others' instruments, work, personal information, and intellectual property.</p>

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## Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze

Developing understanding starts with comprehension of the concepts and perspectives under examination. Being able to summarize by identifying and explaining the salient ideas in a text is foundational. When students summarize and explain an author’s perspective to others, they are building understanding. Students must comprehend a perspective or argument in order to be able to analyze it. That analysis — including consideration of the author’s point of view and purpose, the reasoning and details the author selects, develops, and conveys, and the way the author chooses to situate those details — in turn leads to greater understanding of the topic or concept being explored. Students evaluate the validity of an argument by examining the strength of the line of reasoning and the quality of the evidence the author uses. This level of understanding allows students to recognize the implications and predict the consequences of an argument.

### Essential Questions

- ▶ What strategies will help me comprehend a text?
- ▶ What is the main idea of the argument or artistic work and what reasoning does the author use to develop it?
- ▶ What biases may the author have that influence his or her perspective?
- ▶ Does this argument acknowledge other perspectives?
- ▶ How can I assess the quality or strength of others’ research, products, or artistic works?

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 2.1:</b> Authors express their ideas, perspectives, and/or <b>arguments</b> through their works. The first step in evaluating an author’s perspective or argument is to comprehend it. Such comprehension requires reading, viewing, listening, and thinking critically.</p>	<p><b>LO 2.1A:</b> <i>Employing appropriate reading strategies and reading critically for a specific purpose.</i></p>	<p><b>EK 2.1A1:</b> <i>Reading critically means reading closely to identify the main idea, tone, assumptions, context, perspective, line of reasoning, and evidence used.</i></p> <p><b>EK 2.1A2:</b> <i>Strategies active readers use to preview and prioritize a written text include skimming, scanning, rereading, and questioning.</i></p> <p><b>EK 2.1A3:</b> <i>Strategies active readers use to make meaning from texts include annotating, note-taking, highlighting, and reading aloud.</i></p> <p><b>EK 2.1A4:</b> <i>Perspectives are shared through written, spoken, visual, or performance texts. A perspective includes the writer’s attitude/ tone regarding the subject and is expressed through an argument.</i></p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 2.1:</b> Authors express their ideas, perspectives, and/or <b>arguments</b> through their works. The first step in evaluating an author’s perspective or argument is to comprehend it. Such comprehension requires reading, viewing, listening, and thinking critically.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 2.1B:</b> Summarizing and explaining a text’s main idea or aim while avoiding faulty generalizations and oversimplification.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.1B1:</b> The main idea of an argument is often expressed in the thesis statement, <b>claim</b>, or conclusion, or implied throughout a work.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 2.1B2:</b> Artistic works (e.g., painting, film, music, dance) convey a perspective. Analysis of a work’s context, subject, structure, style, and aesthetic is critical to understanding its aims.</p>
<p><b>EU 2.2:</b> Authors choose evidence to shape and support their arguments. Individuals evaluate the line of reasoning and evidence to determine to what extent they believe or accept an argument.</p>	<p><b>LO 2.1C:</b> Summarizing and explaining the reasoning of an argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.1C1:</b> Authors use reasons to support their arguments. The <b>line of reasoning</b> is composed of one or more claims justified through evidence.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 2.1C2:</b> A lack of understanding of the complexities of an argument (<b>tone, implications, limitations</b>, nuance, context) can lead to oversimplification and/or generalization.</p>
<p><b>EU 2.2:</b> Authors choose evidence to shape and support their arguments. Individuals evaluate the line of reasoning and evidence to determine to what extent they believe or accept an argument.</p>	<p><b>LO 2.2A:</b> Identifying, explaining, and analyzing the logic and line of reasoning of an argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.2A1:</b> <b>Inductive</b> reasoning uses specific observations and/or data points to identify trends, make generalizations, and draw conclusions. <b>Deductive</b> reasoning uses broad facts or generalizations to generate additional, more specific conclusions about a phenomenon.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 2.2A2:</b> An argument’s line of reasoning is organized based on the argument’s purpose (e.g., to show causality, to define, to propose a solution, to lead to a conclusion).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 2.2A3:</b> Effective arguments acknowledge other arguments and/or respond to them with <b>counterarguments</b> (e.g., <b>concession, refutation, rebuttal</b>).</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 2.2:</b> Authors choose evidence to shape and support their arguments. Individuals evaluate the line of reasoning and evidence to determine to what extent they believe or accept an argument.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 2.2B:</b> Describing and analyzing the relevance and credibility of evidence used to support an argument, taking context into consideration.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.2B1:</b> An argument’s context (time and purpose) and situation (in relation to other arguments) inform its interpretation.</p> <p><b>EK 2.2B2:</b> Writers use qualitative and/or quantitative evidence (e.g., facts, data, observations, predictions, analogies, explanations, opinions) to support their claims. Evidence has varying degrees of validity.</p> <p><b>EK 2.2B3:</b> Authors strategically include evidence to support their claims.</p> <p><b>EK 2.2B4:</b> Writers appeal to (or possibly manipulate) readers through a variety of strategies and techniques (e.g., language, authority, qualifiers, fallacies, emphasis).</p> <p><b>EK 2.2B5:</b> Evidence may be used to identify and explain relationships (comparative, causal, or correlational) and/or patterns and trends.</p> <p><b>EK 2.2B6:</b> Credibility is compromised when authors fail to acknowledge and/or consider the limitations of their conclusions, opposing views or perspectives, and/or their own <b>biases</b>.</p>
<p><b>LO 2.2C:</b> Evaluating the validity of an argument.</p>	<p><b>LO 2.2C:</b> Evaluating the validity of an argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.2C1:</b> <i>An argument is valid when there is logical alignment between the line of reasoning and the conclusion.</i></p> <p><b>EK 2.2C2:</b> Validity is most often achieved when the presented evidence is aligned with the conclusions. The strength of an argument depends upon an author acknowledging and/or considering the limitations of his or her conclusions, opposing views or perspectives, and/or his or her own biases.</p> <p><b>EK 2.2C3:</b> Conclusions are contextual and their validity must be affirmed, qualified, or refuted.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 2.2:</b> Authors choose evidence to shape and support their arguments. Individuals evaluate the line of reasoning and evidence to determine to what extent they believe or accept an argument.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 2.2D:</b> Evaluating and critiquing others’ inquiries, studies, artistic works, and/or perspectives.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.2D1:</b> Scholars analyze and evaluate others’ studies and artistic works in terms of internal coherence and <b>alignment</b> of the purposes, goals, and methods of inquiry.</p>
<p><b>EU 2.3:</b> Arguments have implications and consequences.</p>	<p><b>LO 2.3A:</b> Connecting an argument to broader issues by examining the implications of the author’s claim.</p> <hr/> <p><b>LO 2.3B:</b> Evaluating potential resolutions, conclusions, or solutions to problems or issues raised by an argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 2.3A1:</b> The implications and consequences of arguments may be intended or unintended.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 2.3B1:</b> Arguments are significant and have real-world impact because they can influence behavior (e.g., call one to action, suggest logical next steps).</p>

## Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

Understanding the complexity of an issue, idea, or problem requires students to compare and contrast different perspectives. These multiple perspectives, which may support, oppose, compete with, or otherwise vary from one another, come together to create the conversation on the issue. Students must consider the biases and assumptions behind those perspectives in order to evaluate their relevance and importance in the conversation. Evaluating multiple perspectives and arguments allows students to better understand the complexities of an issue or topic.

### Essential Questions

- ▶ What patterns or trends can be identified among the arguments about this issue?
- ▶ What are the implications and/or consequences of accepting or rejecting a particular argument?
- ▶ How can I connect the multiple arguments? What other issues, questions, or topics do they relate to?
- ▶ How can I explain contradictions within or between arguments?
- ▶ From whose perspective is this information being presented, and how does that affect my evaluation?

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . .)	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . .)	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . .)
<b>EU 3.1:</b> Different perspectives often lead to competing and alternative arguments. The complexity of an issue emerges when people bring these differing, multiple perspectives to the conversation.	<b>LO 3.1A:</b> Identifying, comparing, and interpreting multiple perspectives on or arguments about an issue.	<p><b>EK 3.1A1:</b> An individual's perspective is influenced by his or her background (e.g., experiences, culture, education), assumptions, and worldview, as well as by external sources.</p> <p><b>EK 3.1A2:</b> Perspectives are not always oppositional; they may be concurring, complementary, or competing.</p> <p><b>EK 3.1A3:</b> Some ideas/perspectives are ambiguous or not well defined. The process of identification and interpretation may not lead to a definitive answer.</p>
<b>EU 3.2:</b> Not all arguments are equal; some arguments are more credible/valid than others. Through evaluating others' arguments, one's own argument can be situated within a larger conversation.	<b>LO 3.2A:</b> Evaluating objections, implications, and limitations of alternate, opposing, or competing perspectives or arguments.	<p><b>EK 3.2A1:</b> Critical thinkers are aware that some arguments may appeal to emotions, core values, personal biases and assumptions, and logic.</p> <p><b>EK 3.2A2:</b> When evaluating multiple perspectives or arguments, consideration must be given to how one's own personal biases and assumptions can influence one's judgment.</p>

## Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas

Once enough information is gathered and evaluated, students synthesize their accumulated knowledge, emerging ideas, and perspectives to form conclusions of their own. Students must consider other points of view but also analyze material to develop their own perspectives and scholarly works. The goal is for students to think critically about the information and then add to, not simply repeat, the ideas of others. In this way, students establish a unique, creative voice within the larger conversation.

### Essential Questions

- ▶ How do I connect and analyze the evidence in order to develop an argument and support a conclusion?
- ▶ Are there other conclusions I should consider?
- ▶ How does my scholarly work emerge from my perspective, design choices, or aesthetic rationale?
- ▶ How do I acknowledge and account for my own biases and assumptions?
- ▶ What is the most appropriate way to acknowledge and attribute the work of others that was used to support my argument? How do I ensure the conclusions I present are my own?

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 4.1:</b> Scholarly works convey perspectives and demonstrate effective reasoning that have been selected for the intended audience, purpose, and situation.</p>	<p><b>LO 4.1A:</b> Formulating a complex and well-reasoned argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.1A1:</b> Effective arguments use reason and evidence to convey a perspective, <b>point of view</b>, or some version of the truth that is stated or implied in the <b>thesis</b> and/or conclusion.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1A2:</b> Effective arguments are supported and unified by carefully chosen and connected claims, reasons, and evidence.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1A3:</b> Qualifiers place limits on how far a claim may be carried. Effective arguments acknowledge these limits, increasing credibility by reducing overgeneralization or oversimplification.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1A4:</b> Effective arguments may acknowledge other arguments and/or respond to them with counterarguments (e.g., concession, refutation, rebuttal).</p> <p><b>EK 4.1A5:</b> The line of reasoning is a clear, logical path leading the audience through the reasons to a conclusion.</p>



<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 4.1:</b> Scholarly works convey perspectives and demonstrate effective reasoning that have been selected for the intended audience, purpose, and situation.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 4.1A:</b> Formulating a complex and well-reasoned argument.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>EK 4.1A6:</b> The logic and reasoning of an argument may be deductive (claim followed by evidence) or inductive (evidence leads to a conclusion).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A7:</b> A line of reasoning is organized based on the argument's purpose (e.g., to show causality, to evaluate, to define, to propose a solution).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A8:</b> Claims and supporting evidence are arranged (e.g., spatially, chronologically, order of importance) to convey reasoning and relationship (e.g., comparative, causal, correlational).</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A9:</b> The same argument may be organized, arranged, or supported in multiple ways depending on audience and context.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A10:</b> Whether developing an argument or conceptualizing an idea or work of art, scholars thoughtfully choose and implement a process aligned with the inquiry or project goal.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A11:</b> An aesthetic rationale is an argument in that it is a reasoned articulation of specific formal and stylistic choices made in the course of devising the artistic work.</p> <hr/> <p><b>EK 4.1A12:</b> Artists need to articulate their choices, even when those choices deliberately or inadvertently result in ambiguity or lack of clarity.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 4.1:</b> Scholarly works convey perspectives and demonstrate effective reasoning that have been selected for the intended audience, purpose, and situation.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 4.1B:</b> Selecting and consistently applying an appropriate disciplinary or <b>interdisciplinary</b> approach to form a scholarly argument or aesthetic rationale.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.1B1:</b> Each discipline has its own <b>conventions</b> and ways of knowing, questioning, and communicating.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1B2:</b> Scholars apply discipline-specific terminology in the analysis of scholarly works.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1B3:</b> The different disciplines and associated ways of knowing and valuing information are discovered in part through engaging with discipline-specific foundational texts and works.</p> <p><b>EK 4.1B4:</b> Disciplines may be broadly or narrowly defined. Disciplines can intersect or be combined to provide new understandings or perspectives.</p>
<p><b>EU 4.2:</b> Scholars responsibly and purposefully engage with the evidence to develop a compelling argument or aesthetic rationale.</p>	<p><b>LO 4.2A:</b> Interpreting, using, and synthesizing qualitative and/or quantitative data/information from various perspectives and sources (e.g., primary, secondary, print, nonprint) to develop and support an argument.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.2A1:</b> Evidence can be collected from print and nonprint sources (e.g., libraries, museums, archives), experts, or data gathered in the field (e.g., interviews, questionnaires, observations).</p> <p><b>EK 4.2A2:</b> Evidence is used to support the claims and reasoning of an argument. Compelling evidence is sufficient, accurate, relevant, current, and credible to support the conclusion.</p> <p><b>EK 4.2A3:</b> Evidence is chosen based on purpose (e.g., to align an argument with authority; to define a concept, illustrate a process, or clarify a statement; to set a mood; to provide an example; to amplify or qualify a point).</p>
	<p><b>LO 4.2B:</b> Providing insightful and cogent <b>commentary</b> that links evidence with claims.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.2B1:</b> Commentary connects the chosen evidence to the claim through interpretation or inference, identifying patterns, describing trends, and/or explaining relationships (e.g., comparative, causal, correlational).</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 4.3:</b> Responsible participation in the scholarly community requires acknowledging and respecting the prior findings and contributions of others.</p>	<p><b>LO 4.3A:</b> Attributing knowledge and ideas accurately and ethically, using an appropriate citation style.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.3A1:</b> <b>Plagiarism</b> is a serious offense that occurs when a person presents another’s ideas or words as his or her own. Plagiarism may be avoided by acknowledging sources thoroughly and accurately.</p> <p><b>EK 4.3A2:</b> Source material should be introduced, integrated, or embedded into the text of an argument.</p> <p><b>EK 4.3A3:</b> Quoted and paraphrased material must be properly attributed, credited, and cited following a style manual. Quoting is using the exact words of others; paraphrasing is restating an idea in one’s own words.</p> <p><b>EK 4.3A4:</b> Academic disciplines use specific style guides for citing and attributing sources (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago, AMA).</p> <p><b>EK 4.3A5:</b> Appropriation in works of art has potential legal and ethical implications that scholars need to consider (e.g., scholars must credit works that are used in visual/audio sampling, parody, choreography).</p>
<p><b>EU 4.4:</b> Forming one’s own perspective and reaching new understandings involve innovative thinking and synthesis of existing knowledge with personally generated evidence.</p>	<p><b>LO 4.4A:</b> Extending an idea, question, process, or product to innovate or create new understandings.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.4A1:</b> Innovative solutions and arguments identify and challenge assumptions, acknowledge the importance of content, imagine and explore alternatives, and engage in reflective skepticism.</p>
<p><b>EU 4.5:</b> Arguments, choices, and solutions present intended and unintended opportunities, consequences, and implications.</p>	<p><b>LO 4.5A:</b> Offering resolutions, conclusions, and/or solutions based on evidence as well as considering consequences and implications.</p>	<p><b>EK 4.5A1:</b> When making choices and proposing solutions, the advantages and disadvantages of the options should be weighed against the goal within its context.</p>

## Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit

Collaboration, communication, and reflection are skills that provide opportunities for students to develop their learning. When collaborating, students draw upon their own strengths and the strengths of a team of peers, mentors, and teachers to achieve their best possible work. Students should engage in peer review and personal revision to refine and tailor their arguments.

An argument is effectively communicated when its purpose is clear, it is tailored to a specific audience and context, and it is conveyed through a medium appropriate and appealing to the intended audience. Adhering to standard language conventions and engaging delivery techniques establishes a writer's or speaker's credibility with his or her audience. Sometimes arguments or perspectives are associated with and accompanied by an innovation or artistic work. These works should make clear the artistic choices for the aesthetic rationale or focus on one perspective over another.

Whether working alone or in a group, students reflect on their work and learning processes, which can lead to personal growth as well as even more effective inquiry, learning, and collaboration.

### Essential Questions

- ▶ How can I best appeal to and engage my audience?
- ▶ What is the best medium or genre through which to reach my audience?
- ▶ How might I adapt my written and oral presentations for different audiences and situations?
- ▶ How might my communication choices affect my credibility with my audience?
- ▶ Which revision strategies are most appropriate to developing and refining my project at different stages?
- ▶ How do I provide feedback that is valuable to others? How do I act upon feedback I have received?
- ▶ How can I benefit from reflecting on my own work?

**Note:** LO 5.1A and EK 5.1A1 are different for AP Seminar [S] and AP Research [R].

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 5.1:</b> How a perspective or argument is presented affects how people interpret or react to it. The same perspective or argument may be developed or presented differently depending on audience, purpose, and context.</p>	<p><b>LO 5.1A[S]:</b> <i>Planning, producing, and presenting a cohesive argument, considering audience, context, and purpose, and using appropriate media (e.g., essay, poster, oral presentation, documentary, research report/thesis).</i></p>	<p><b>EK 5.1A1[S]:</b> <i>An argument may include the following elements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Introduction: engages the audience by providing background and/or context</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Thesis: conveys the main idea of an argument</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Reasons, evidence, and commentary: provide support for the argument</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Counterargument, concession, refutation, and rebuttal: acknowledge and/or respond to opposing arguments</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Conclusion: synthesizes reasoning, considers possible implications for the future, and ties back to the introduction</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Bibliography: identifies works cited</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>LO 5.1A[R]:</b> Planning and producing a cohesive academic paper, considering audience, context, and purpose.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1A1[R]:</b> Inquiries result in conclusions that can be presented in different formats and that typically have the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Introduction: provides background and contextualizes the research question/project goal, reviews previous work in the field related to the research question/project goal, and identifies the gap in the current field of knowledge to be addressed</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Method, process, or approach: explains and provides justification for the chosen method, process, or approach</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Results, Product, or Findings: presents the results, product, evidence, or findings</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation: interprets the significance of the results, product, or findings; explores connections to original research question/project goal; discusses the implications and limitations of the research or creative work</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Conclusion and Future Directions: reflects on the process and how this project could impact the field; discusses possible next steps</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Bibliography: provides a complete list of sources cited and consulted in the appropriate disciplinary style</i></li> </ul>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 5.1:</b> How a perspective or argument is presented affects how people interpret or react to it. The same perspective or argument may be developed or presented differently depending on audience, purpose, and context.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1A[R]:</b> Planning and producing a cohesive academic paper, considering audience, context, and purpose.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>EK 5.1A2:</b> Coherence is achieved when the elements and ideas in an argument flow logically and smoothly. Transitions are used to move the audience from one element or idea to another by illustrating the relationship between the elements or ideas.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1B:</b> Adhering to established conventions of grammar, usage, style, and mechanics.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1B1:</b> A writer expresses tone or attitude about a topic through word choice, sentence structure, and imagery.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.1B2:</b> Effective sentences create variety, emphasis, and interest through structure, agreement of elements, placement of modifiers, and consistency of tense.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.1B3:</b> Precision in word choice reduces confusion, wordiness, and redundancy.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.1B4:</b> Spelling and grammar errors detract from credibility.</p>
	<p><b>LO 5.1C:</b> Communicating information using effective techniques of design.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1C1:</b> Effective organizational and design elements (e.g., headings, layout, illustrations, pull quotes, captions, lists) may aid in audience engagement and understanding by calling attention to important information and/or creating emotional responses in the audience. Ineffective use or overuse of these elements disrupts audience engagement and understanding.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.1C2:</b> Data and other information can be presented graphically (e.g., infographics, graphs, tables, models) to aid audience understanding and interpretation.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.1C3:</b> Effective communication requires choosing appropriate media according to context, purpose, and audience.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 5.1:</b> How a perspective or argument is presented affects how people interpret or react to it. The same perspective or argument may be developed or presented differently depending on audience, purpose, and context.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1D:</b> Adapting an argument for context, purpose, and/or audience.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1D1:</b> Arguments can be adapted by strategically selecting and emphasizing information considering audience, medium, and purpose.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1E:</b> Engaging an audience by employing effective techniques of delivery or performance.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1D2:</b> Scholars should articulate their choices and content in a language that is not discipline-specific to communicate effectively to nonexperts or people outside the discipline.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1E:</b> Engaging an audience by employing effective techniques of delivery or performance.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1E1:</b> Speakers vary elements of delivery (e.g., volume, tempo, movement, eye contact, vocal variety, energy) to emphasize information, convey tone, and engage their audience.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1E:</b> Engaging an audience by employing effective techniques of delivery or performance.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1E2:</b> Scholars present, perform, and/or produce their work in multiple ways. This may take discipline-specific forms (e.g., portfolios, exhibits, performances, showcases, premieres, posters), but may also cross disciplinary boundaries.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1E:</b> Engaging an audience by employing effective techniques of delivery or performance.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1E3:</b> Scholars present, perform, and/or produce their completed work after multiple revisions or rehearsals (e.g., responding to audience feedback, self-critique of recorded performance) and polishing.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1F:</b> Defending inquiry choices and final product with clarity, consistency, and conviction.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1F1:</b> Scholars effectively articulate the rationale for inquiry choices in relation to the completed work.</p>
<p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.1F:</b> Defending inquiry choices and final product with clarity, consistency, and conviction.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.1F2:</b> Scholars engage thoughtfully with their audiences' critiques and questions.</p>

<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 5.2:</b> Teams are most effective when they draw on the diverse perspectives, skills, and backgrounds of team members to address complex, open-ended problems.</p>	<p><b>LO 5.2A:</b> Providing individual contributions to overall collaborative effort to accomplish a task or a goal.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.2A1:</b> Knowing and communicating one’s strengths and challenges to a group allows one’s contributions to be more effective.</p>
	<p><b>LO 5.2B:</b> Fostering constructive team climate, resolving conflicts, and facilitating the contributions of all team members to address complex, open-ended problems.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.2B1:</b> Teams are built around tasks. Low-risk teambuilding activities and simulations enhance a team’s performance.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.2B2:</b> Teams function at their best when they understand the diversity of their social-cultural perspectives, talents, and skills.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.2B3:</b> Teams function at their best when they practice effective interpersonal communication, consensus building, conflict resolution, and negotiation.</p>
<p><b>EU 5.3:</b> Reflection increases learning, self-awareness, and personal growth through identification and evaluation of personal conclusions and their implications.</p>	<p><b>LO 5.3A:</b> Reflecting on and revising their own writing, thinking, and creative processes.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.3A1:</b> Reflection is an ongoing and recursive process in inquiry, often leading to changes in understanding. Strategies for reflection may include journal writing, self-questioning, drawing, exploration of space, and/or guided contemplation.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.3A2:</b> Learning requires practice through an iterative process of thinking/rethinking, vision/revision, and writing/rewriting.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.3A3:</b> Scholars are mindful of the rationale behind the chosen method for data collection, information gathering, analysis, production, and presentation.</p>
		<p><b>EK 5.3A4:</b> Scholars reflect on how the inquiry process helped them deepen their understanding, make important connections, and develop greater self-direction.</p>



<b>Enduring Understandings</b> (Students will understand that . . . )	<b>Learning Objectives</b> (Students will be skilled at . . . )	<b>Essential Knowledge</b> (Students will know that . . . )
<p><b>EU 5.3:</b> Reflection increases learning, self-awareness, and personal growth through identification and evaluation of personal conclusions and their implications.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>LO 5.3B:</b> Reflecting on personal contributions to overall collaborative effort.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.3B1:</b> Reflective contributors acknowledge the impact of their actions on the outcome of the group's efforts, noting the reasons for such actions, assumptions made, and whether or not such actions and assumptions hindered or helped the achievement of the group's goals.</p>
<p><b>EU 5.4:</b> Scholars perform, present, and/or produce their work within a larger community. Throughout the inquiry process, scholars interact with and benefit from the scholarly community through thoughtful engagement with the opinions and critiques of others.</p>	<p><b>LO 5.3C:</b> Reflecting on the larger significance of engaging in the overall inquiry process and producing a completed scholarly work.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.3C1:</b> Reflective scholars explore potential future directions for their inquiries and the development of their own scholarship or bodies of work.</p> <p><b>EK 5.3C2:</b> Reflective scholars acknowledge how their inquiry processes and resulting works can be transformational for their own and others' understanding as well as for their personal identities as scholars.</p>
<p><b>EU 5.4:</b> Scholars perform, present, and/or produce their work within a larger community. Throughout the inquiry process, scholars interact with and benefit from the scholarly community through thoughtful engagement with the opinions and critiques of others.</p>	<p><b>LO 5.4A:</b> Engaging in peer review to provide constructive responses to one another's work, appropriate to the stage of a project's development.</p> <p><b>LO 5.4B:</b> Engaging in peer review to receive and consider responses to their work.</p>	<p><b>EK 5.4A1:</b> Peer review should be based on guidelines and defined criteria appropriate to the work.</p> <p><b>EK 5.4B1:</b> Peer review is an effective way for scholars to strengthen their critical eye as well as strengthen their own work.</p> <p><b>EK 5.4B2:</b> Communities of scholars produce, present, and perform effectively when participants actively seek and provide feedback.</p>

# AP Research Instructional Approaches

## Organizing the Course

### Inquiry and the Academic Conversation

Critical inquiry focuses on the creation of new ideas, perspectives, and arguments. Teachers must help students understand that the research process is not simply about collecting evidence or facts and then piecing them together. Instead, the research process is about *inquiry* — asking questions and coming to solutions and conclusions through serious thinking and reflection. The researcher seeks relevant information in articles, books, and other sources and develops an informed perspective built upon, but not merely derivative of, the ideas in the examined material. As a result, the research process is recursive, meaning that the researcher regularly revisits ideas, seeks new information when necessary, and reconsiders and refines the research questions, topic, and/or approach. Additionally, students should understand that sometimes the inquiry leads to the development of an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., product, exhibit, performance).

Facilitating students' entrance into academic or real-world conversations about complex issues is a key goal of both the AP Seminar and AP Research courses. The AP Seminar course aims to build independent, critical thinkers by empowering students to develop the skills and traits necessary for future academic study through the examination of multiple perspectives, evaluation of credibility of sources, and construction of arguments. The AP Research course provides students the opportunity to build upon these skills by choosing and deeply exploring a topic or question of personal interest and developing and defending a more comprehensive argument and conclusion. Throughout the research or inquiry process, students document and reflect on feedback received and on their own thinking, writing, and creative processes through a process and reflection portfolio. The AP Research course culminates in the students' presentation and oral defense of their academic paper.

### Organizational Models

AP Research can be organized in a variety of ways to best address student interests, state and district goals and requirements, and local school traditions and culture. Four examples are illustrated in the table on the next page.

AP Research Model	Description	Example Courses
<b>Disciplinary Focus</b>	The course content is grounded in a specific discipline.	<p><b>AP Research: STEM Inquiries</b></p> <p>This course is offered as an elective in science or math. The units of study focus on developing students' understanding and implementation of research methods in STEM fields for an inquiry investigation of the students' choice.</p> <p><b>AP Research: Performing and Visual Arts</b></p> <p>This course is offered as an elective for students with an interest in the various arts disciplines. The units of study focus on developing students' understanding and implementation of inquiry in the arts with an emphasis on developing a product, performance, or exhibit alongside the academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.</p>
<b>Internship</b>	The course provides a framework for students in extracurricular internships of any discipline to receive credit for their research as long as it adheres to the AP Research course assessment task descriptions and scoring guidelines.	<p><b>AP Research: Independent Study</b></p> <p>This course is intended for students who are already working with a discipline-specific mentor to conduct independent study in research of the student's choosing. The teacher must act as the course facilitator in ensuring the mentor and student are aware of the course curricula, assessments, and timeline. The teacher of record will still be responsible for scoring and uploading the students' work.</p>
<b>Thematic Survey Linked to AP Course</b>	AP Research students are concurrently enrolled in another common AP course, allowing for team teaching and connecting of AP course-specific content with AP Research skills and culminating in an academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.	<p><b>AP Research: Biology</b></p> <p>Students are concurrently enrolled in AP Biology allowing for cross-curricular connections between the two courses. Inquiry topics chosen by students are researched using the methods common to the field of biology.</p>
<b>General</b>	The course focuses on research methods of two or more disciplines rather than any one specific field.	<p><b>Research Methods</b></p> <p>Students develop an understanding of the different disciplines' paradigms, ways of knowing, and inquiry methods for the purpose of determining which method best fits their chosen topic of inquiry/research question. Each student then uses a selected method to complete his or her investigation.</p>

## Bridging from the AP Seminar Course to the AP Research Course

To prepare AP Seminar students to enter the next course in the AP Capstone program — AP Research — teachers should provide them with a preview of the skills, goals, and timelines of the AP Research course. Upon completion of the AP Seminar assessment tasks in May, students who will continue on to the AP Research course should be given the opportunity to:

- ▶ develop a list of topics and high-level questions to spark their interest in engaging in an individual research project;
- ▶ identify potential consultants to guide them in the planning and development of their research project;
- ▶ identify potential opportunities (if they are interested) to perform primary research with a mentor during the summer, via internships or summer research projects for high school students offered in the community and local higher education institutions; and
- ▶ discuss research project planning skills and ideas with students who are currently taking the AP Research course.

In schools that permit students to begin the AP Research course in the summer, the AP Seminar and AP Research course instructors should provide AP Research students with additional instruction, assignments, and avenues for continued communication to guide them through the research planning process during the summer months.

## A Sample Timeline

Students' online proposal forms for the Academic Paper must be approved by the course instructor by November 30. The scores for the AP Research Academic Paper and Presentation and Oral Defense must be uploaded by April 30. AP Research teachers should devise a timeline to ensure adherence to these due dates and to reflect the needs of the students, the culture of the school, and students who may begin research in the summer via internships. A sample timeline follows on the next page.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Task</b>
<b>May (End of AP Seminar Course)</b>	AP Seminar students consider topics, problems, or ideas for inquiry and practice developing research questions.
<b>June–September</b>	Students choose a topic/issue, carry out preliminary research, develop an annotated bibliography, and finalize a research question and proposal.
<b>September–October</b>	Students present a preliminary inquiry proposal for peer review; identify the need for, recruit, and begin communication with consultants; finalize and submit a proposal; and reflect on feedback received.
<b>October–November</b>	Students complete the background component of their inquiry and finalize the choice and design of their inquiry method. If necessary, they submit a revised version of their proposal for final approval. <i>Proposals should be approved by the teacher no later than November 30.</i>
<b>November–January</b>	Students implement their inquiry methods while engaging in progress and reflection interviews with the teacher to ensure challenges with methods and time management are addressed. <i>Students curate the inquiry process, writing, and reflection artifacts from September to March in their process and reflection portfolios (PREP).</i>
<b>January–March</b>	Students write, proofread, peer review, and submit their academic papers, ensuring all components are present and meet rubric criteria. <i>Students finalize additional scholarly work or product if such was required as a result of their inquiry.</i>
<b>March–April</b>	Teachers score and students present their work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ March 15–30: Students complete papers.</li> <li>▶ April 1–15: Students prepare, practice, and deliver presentations with oral defense. <i>Students must arrange for viewing of additional scholarly work by teacher and panelists prior to giving their presentations and oral defense (where applicable).</i></li> <li>▶ April 15–30: Teachers finalize and upload scores for papers and presentations with oral defense.</li> </ul>
<b>April–May</b>	AP Research students present summary of work and lessons learned to AP Seminar students.

## Teaching the Skills

The focus of the AP Capstone Program courses is on skill development: students practice, refine, and master the skills critical for academic success. The curriculum framework identifies the learning objectives and essential knowledge that address the core skills listed below in more detail. As teachers create instructional units, they should carefully plan so that such skills are developmentally sequenced. Using the representative instructional strategies illustrated in the table below, teachers should provide AP Research students with multiple opportunities to engage in the core skills of the course.

Core Skill Area	Description	Representative Instructional Strategies
<b>Identifying and Refining Research Questions</b>	The process of narrowing a scope of interest into a research question to serve as the foundation of a long-term investigation or inquiry.	<p><b>Graphic Organizers</b></p> <p>Teachers provide a visual system for organizing multiple ideas, perspectives, and/or arguments and their supporting evidence for the purpose of narrowing a field of interest into a focused problem, topic of inquiry, or research question. Examples include Venn diagrams, flow-charts, and mind maps.</p> <p><b>Question Formulation Technique</b></p> <p>Teachers provide a stimulus from which students openly brainstorm questions, categorize questions as <i>open</i> or <i>closed</i>, and work on improving them.</p> <p><b>I-Search</b></p> <p>Students perform a quick search and complete a quickwrite that identifies the research questions within three to five published research studies and lists the criteria that make these research questions capable of sustaining a long-term scholarly study.</p> <p><b>Peer Review</b></p> <p>Students work with peers and consultants to critique and revise research questions to be focused, open-ended, and capable of sustaining a long-term investigation.</p> <p><b>Elevator Pitch</b></p> <p>Students present a 2-minute summary of the chosen topic of inquiry, research question, and purpose of the study to determine whether or not others clearly understand the focus of the study.</p>

Core Skill Area	Description	Representative Instructional Strategies
<b>Seeking and Synthesizing Background Information</b>	The process of becoming familiar with and synthesizing what others have discovered about the topic so that the scholar can verify the existence of a problem or gap in the knowledge base to form the basis of a long-term investigation.	<p><b>Working with LEADS</b></p> <p>Students identify others’ studies and findings in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Lay the foundation for their own study</li> <li>▶ Elucidate the selected problem or topic of inquiry</li> <li>▶ Analyze why their study is appropriate</li> <li>▶ Describe why their study is capable of solving a problem or producing a work</li> <li>▶ Show studies similar to theirs</li> </ul> <p><b>Annotated Bibliography</b></p> <p>Students write a brief summary of a text and a commentary on its usefulness to the inquiry along with the citation.</p> <p><b>Source Mining</b></p> <p>Students review the bibliographies of research studies or articles on a topic to see which names or works appear repeatedly to get an overview of key scholars in the field.</p>
<b>Aligning Study Design</b>	The process of identifying an aligned, feasible research or inquiry design to accomplish the purpose of the research question and/or project goal while taking into consideration time constraints, availability of resources, participant accessibility, and paperwork due to ethics guidelines.	<p><b>Annotated Bibliography of Methods</b></p> <p>Students write citations and brief summaries of the research questions and methods of scholarly, peer-reviewed studies on their chosen topic along with commentaries on those methods’ alignment with their own chosen study design or approach.</p> <p><b>Poster Presentation and Peer Review</b></p> <p>Students present a poster showing the research question, purpose of study, background and context information, and chosen or designed method for collecting information to engage others in peer reviewing the feasibility and alignment of the study design, approach, or method.</p>

Core Skill Area	Description	Representative Instructional Strategies
<b>Analyzing and Evaluating Findings</b>	The process of interpreting the significance of the findings, results, or product and exploring connections to the original research question and project goal.	<p><b>Flow Chart</b> Students present the connections between the research question and information collected and rank the significance or importance of the findings to the purpose of the study.</p> <p><b>Statistical Analyses</b> Students use descriptive or inferential statistics to categorize and summarize large data sets to determine the significance of the data to the research question and purpose of the study.</p> <p><b>Data Table and Graphical Analyses</b> Students plot or categorize images, graphs, and/or other visual presentations of data or information into chunks for the purpose of determining the significance of the findings or results to the research question and purpose of the study.</p>
<b>Engaging with Discipline-Specific Consultants</b>	The process of communicating with experts in the discipline or field of study to obtain guidance and feedback on one's research question, study purpose, interpretation of findings, or extended piece of scholarly work.	<p><b>Online File Access and Feedback</b> Students use online word processors (e.g., Google Docs) and storage systems (e.g., DropBox) to share documents and get feedback from experts in the field or discipline of study.</p> <p><b>Email or Video Chat</b> Students schedule regular communication via text or video platform with an expert in the discipline or field of study.</p>
<b>Peer Review</b>	The process of providing and receiving timely, constructive feedback according to a set of guidelines in order to improve one's critical eye and scholarly work.	<p><b>Rubric Review</b> Students identify and comment on aspects of sample student work that align with a designated rubric's criteria.</p> <p><b>Compliments and Suggestions</b> Using peer-editing guidelines, students provide three positive notes and three revision suggestions on peers' scholarly work.</p>
<b>Showcasing Scholarly Work</b>	The process of conveying a clear message in a way that engages and appeals to a specific audience.	<p><b>Public Practice and Peer review</b> Students provide structured reviews of one another's presentations according to a set of established guidelines (e.g., must not be personal, must be constructive with suggestions for improvement).</p>



Core Skill Area	Description	Representative Instructional Strategies
<b>Showcasing Scholarly Work</b> <i>(continued)</i>	The process of conveying a clear message in a way that engages and appeals to a specific audience. <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Videotaping: Self-Evaluation and Reflection</b> Students review recordings of their own presentations with guided reflection questions focusing on specific techniques.  <b>Practice Modeling</b> Teachers model for students the different techniques for emphasizing ideas and engaging an audience (e.g., eye contact, vocal variety, emphatic gestures).
<b>Defending Inquiry Outcomes</b>	The process of demonstrating the significance of one’s research by explaining the research process, findings, conclusions, and reflections to those in attendance.	<b>Peanut Gallery</b> Students deliver short presentations to their peers, with their peers asking critical questions and providing constructive feedback on the clarity, validity, and coherence of the scholarly work.
<b>Reflecting</b>	The process of making learning goals, assessing one’s achievement toward such goals, and identifying both challenges that hindered and effective strategies that helped one achieve the goals.	<b>Research Process and Reflection Portfolio</b> Students document and curate scholarly work with reflective commentary on the artifacts they’ve chosen to reflect moments of insight, clarity, and growth. Students record documentation of daily work, questions, and challenges pertaining to the development and completion of the scholarly inquiry, including responses to such guiding reflection questions as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Identify personal insights, moments of critical questioning, and comments or ideas from today’s work that have impacted you.</li> <li>▶ Describe why these insights, questions, and ideas are important to you. What effect do they have and what dilemmas, questions, or possibilities do they raise?</li> <li>▶ How do these issues affect the clarity, order, confusion, or chaos of your thinking?</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening Self-Directedness and Time Management</b>	The process of personally identifying tasks, setting deadlines, and holding oneself accountable to achieve a learning goal or create a scholarly product.	<b>Biweekly WIPs</b> Teachers provide opportunities for scholars to present their work in progress (WIP) to their peers and to receive feedback on addressing challenges, time management, or even data interpretation.

## Formative Assessments

In addition to developing instructional activities and units of study that engage students in the AP Research course content, teachers should develop formative assessments to effectively prepare students for the AP Research Through-Course Performance Assessment Task components: the Academic Paper and the Presentation and Oral Defense.

Examples of formative assessments and suggestions for when to implement them are described in the table below. These are not meant to be graded assessments; they are intended as opportunities for students and teachers to evaluate student progress, address problems or misconceptions, and improve student learning.

Timeline	Formative Assessment	Purpose
September–October	Rubric and Evaluation of Papers	Apply assessment rubric components for the academic paper to sample student papers and identify the different levels of achievement evidenced in those samples.
	Annotated Bibliography I: Topic of Inquiry Background	Effectively search for and identify a broad range of perspectives and scholarly sources of information for the chosen field of study.
	Focused Topic of Inquiry	Exhibit knowledge of the field of interest and develop a narrow, novel, researchable problem, topic, or idea.
October–November	Peer Review of Research Questions	Differentiate between well- and poorly formed research questions, and offer/receive feedback on research question drafts.
	Finalization of Research Question and Purpose of Inquiry	Develop a clearly articulated research question that is capable of being researched at this level and clearly articulate the purpose/goals of the inquiry.
	Annotated Bibliography II: Discipline-Specific Style with Literature Review	Perform an in-depth literature review that outlines the scholarly source materials used and how the materials offer information and views relating to the question. Demonstrate comprehensiveness of the literature review as exhibited by breadth, relevance, currency, availability, and authority within chosen resources, using the discipline-specific style common to the field of study.
	Annotated Bibliography III: Inquiry Methods of the Field of Study	Identify the research question, variables, measurements, and limitations within published quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research studies. Differentiate between the purpose and components of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Formative Assessment</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
October–November <i>(continued)</i>	Poster Presentation of Research Proposal	Effectively articulate the focused topic of inquiry, research question, overview of the knowledge of the field, gap the chosen inquiry fills, and selected or designed method of inquiry to collect data to address research question or inquiry topic.
November–March	Inquiry Method Design	Describe procedures used for analysis in sufficient detail to permit understanding of how the data were analyzed and the processes and assumptions underlying specific techniques. Evaluate the fit between the purpose of the proposal, its research design, and its data collection strategy.
	Biweekly Work in Progress Interview	Exhibit regular maintenance of a research portfolio to record revisions, amendments, and reflections during the inquiry process. Prepare and periodically update timetable or project plan that clearly outlines what activities must be accomplished and the deadlines by which the objectives of the course must be achieved.
	Biweekly Peer Review	Review and revise the elements of the academic paper with attention paid to the purpose, research question, and research method to ensure clarity and alignment and to address peer, teacher, and consultant feedback.
March–April	Practice Presentations	Exhibit polished articulation and effective presentation of the inquiry performed.
	Peer Panels	Exhibit depth of knowledge of topic of inquiry and articulation of choices made in design and interpretation/synthesis of evidence through the research project through responses to feedback and suggestions for revision.
May–End of School	Process and Reflection Portfolio: Exit Interview	Articulate moments of insight, challenge, and change in thought processes as exhibited by the curation of the inquiry process in the portfolio.

## Selecting and Accessing Resources

When selecting texts for study, teachers should challenge students to engage with and analyze complex and scholarly sources. Helping students with the identification of scholarly materials requires a discussion of peer review, which differentiates scholarly from nonscholarly sources in an academic research community. Students should be invited to find and contribute texts for study, providing them opportunities to make connections of their own.

Access to a variety of print and online style guides, writing and argumentation handbooks, databases, and other reference materials is essential to equip students and teachers with the tools necessary for research and communication. To supplement the access to scholarly source databases that teachers provide to students, the College Board will provide both teachers and students free access to EBSCOhost. More information about gaining access will be given to teachers during the mandatory professional development.

## College Board Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information

Participating teachers shall inform students of the consequences of plagiarism and instruct students to ethically use and acknowledge the ideas and work of others throughout their course work. The student's individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited.

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g. evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

## Engaging Community Members

Community members can play an integral role in students' experiences with scholarly research. Discipline-specific consultants can guide students' formulation of research questions, interpretation of data, and the academic paper or presentation revision process as well as provide critical, constructive feedback to strengthen students' voices in the academic conversation. Institutional review boards can provide guidance on students' designs and approve students' implementation of ethical research practices. Additional resources for training external consultants on the assessment tasks and timeline for the AP Research course will be provided to teachers during the mandatory professional development.

A designated staff member may also coordinate a pool of consultants for the AP Research course and assist in matching students with outside experts. AP Research teachers and school administrators should identify school and district policies pertaining to students engaging virtually or face-to-face with external mentors or experts and communicate such policies to parents, students, and potential consultants.

## Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Research proposals involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by an institutional review board (IRB) before experimentation begins. According to federal regulations (45-CFR-46), the IRB must evaluate the potential physical and/or psychological risk of research involving humans. This includes review of any surveys or questionnaires to be used in a project. Federal regulations require local community involvement. Therefore, it is advisable that an IRB be established at the school level to evaluate human research projects.

An IRB must

- ▶ consist of a minimum of three members;
- ▶ include an educator;
- ▶ include a school administrator (preferably principal or vice principal); and
- ▶ include an individual who is knowledgeable about and capable of evaluating the physical and/or psychological risk involved in a given study. *This may be a medical doctor, physician's assistant, registered nurse, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor.*

Many communities have IRBs in local organizations such as high schools, community colleges, universities, and medical centers. Many school districts have local science and engineering fair review committees, which, if necessary, can serve as IRBs as long as they have the required membership.

Additional guidance for the purpose and establishment of IRBs can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/irb/>.

## Participating in External Research Presentations and Competition Platforms

Teachers should identify which students desire to submit and present their scholarly work to high school academic competitions (e.g., INTEL Science Talent Search, Siemens Westinghouse Competition, Tellus Poetry Competition). Teachers should apprise students of individual competition rules and proposal submission deadlines to ensure students know how to translate their work to fit the rules and meet the timelines for such competitions.

For more information on high school competitions for scholars, see the following websites:

[http://www.duketipeog.com/home/academic\\_activities](http://www.duketipeog.com/home/academic_activities)

[http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/top\\_science-fair\\_overview.shtml](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/top_science-fair_overview.shtml)

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/fiction/publish/competition.htm>

## Preparing the Process and Reflection Portfolio (PREP)

The primary purpose of the process and reflection portfolio (PREP) is to document students' development as they investigate their research questions, thereby providing evidence that students have demonstrated a sustained effort during the entire inquiry process. This portfolio should be reviewed throughout the year as a formative assessment component of the course and should be maintained by the student as evidence of participating in research to show to academic counselors, college admission officers, and faculty members.

Throughout the inquiry process, students will document their research or artistic processes, communication with their teachers and consultants, and reflections on their thought processes. Students should also examine their strengths and weaknesses with regard to implementing such processes and developing their arguments or aesthetic rationales. Through the professional development experience, teachers will be provided with a list of optional questions and tasks to help them guide students through the inquiry process. Teachers should select at least 15–20 questions that can assist students in the early months of the academic year as they begin the inquiry process and throughout the year as they examine, and reexamine, their chosen areas of study and the process by which they engage in research. Teachers can also design their own questions and tasks.

The combined group of questions and tasks in the PREP document should address all five big ideas in the curriculum framework (QUEST), with specific attention paid to the following:

- › Choice of the research question and interest in the subject matter
- › Research process, including resources (documents, people, multimedia); analysis of evidence; directions in which the inquiry or project seems to lead; changes to initial assumptions
- › Ways in which students have worked both on their own and as part of a larger community
- › Challenges and solutions

Teachers should engage students in individual discussions or interviews to help them reflect on and document their work, organize their time, and reach appropriate milestones. Teachers should also use these discussions as opportunities to formatively assess students' progress. The PREP should be used to inform regular progress reviews throughout the year. Teacher and student preference can determine the format of the portfolio (electronic or hard copy).

In addition to responses to questions and tasks provided by teachers, the final form of the PREP should include:

- ▶ Table of contents
- ▶ Completed and approved proposal form

- ▶ Specific pieces of work selected by the student to represent what he or she considers to be the best showcase for his or her work. Examples might include:
  - › In-class (teacher-directed) freewriting about the inquiry process
  - › Resource list
  - › Annotated bibliography of any source important to the student's work
  - › Photographs, charts, spreadsheets, and/or links to videos or other relevant visual research/project artifacts
  - › Draft versions of selected sections of the academic paper
  - › Notes in preparation for presentation and oral defense
- ▶ Documentation of permission(s) received from primary sources, if required — for example, permission(s) from an IRB or other agreements with individuals, institutions, or organizations that provide primary and private data such as interviews, surveys, or investigations
- ▶ Documentation or log of the student's interaction with consultant(s) and the role the consultant(s) played in the student's learning and inquiry process (e.g., What areas of expertise did the consultant have that the student needed to draw from? Did the student get the help he or she needed — and if not, what did he or she do to ensure that the research process was successful? Which avenues of exploration did the consultant help the student to discover?)
- ▶ Questions asked to and feedback received from peer and adult reviewers both in the initial stages and at key points along the way
- ▶ Reflection on whether or not the feedback was accepted or rejected and why
- ▶ Attestation signed by the student which states, "I hereby affirm that the work contained in this Process and Reflection Portfolio is my own and that I have read and understand the College Board Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information"

# AP Research Assessment Overview

Students are assessed with one through-course performance task consisting of two distinct components. Both components will be included in the calculation of students' final AP scores.

- ▶ **Academic Paper — 75%**
- ▶ **Presentation and Oral Defense — 25%**

## AP Research Through-Course Performance Assessment

**Weight:** 100% of the AP Research Score

**Recommended Completion Date for Both Components:** April 15

**Submission Deadline:** April 30

*Note: Teachers must carefully plan a calendar that provides time for the task to be completed, scored, and uploaded by April 30.*

Teachers must upload and submit the following by April 30:

- ▶ Academic Paper for each student
- ▶ Internal Score Report for the following components:
  - › Academic Paper (AP)
  - › Presentation and Oral Defense (POD)

### Task Overview

Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong, in-depth study or investigation in an area of personal interest through a chosen or designed inquiry method and develop a well-reasoned argument based on the evidence collected in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words. As a culmination of their research, students deliver (using appropriate media) a presentation and orally defend their research design, approach, and findings. Students whose academic paper is accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., performance, exhibit, product) must arrange for the teacher and panelists to view this work prior to the presentation and oral defense. Throughout the inquiry process, students communicate regularly with their teacher and, when appropriate, consult with an internal or external expert.

### Components

The following components are formally assessed:



Component	Scoring Method	Weight
<b>Academic Paper (AP)</b> 4,000–5,000 words	Teacher scored, College Board validated	75%
<b>Presentation and Oral Defense (POD)</b> (15–20 minutes for presentation followed by three or four questions from a panel of three evaluators).	Teacher scored	25%

## Learning Objectives Assessed in Academic Paper and Presentation and Oral Defense

*Learning objectives shared with the AP Seminar course that are formally assessed in the AP Research course are indicated with green shading below as well as in the curriculum framework (pp. 10–32).*

AP Research Learning Objectives	AP	POD	Not Assessed
<b>LO 1.1C:</b> Identifying a topic of inquiry.	X		
<b>LO 1.1D:</b> Articulating the purpose and significance of the scholarly inquiry.	X	X	
<b>LO 1.1E:</b> Developing and revising a focused research question/project goal.	X		
<b>LO 1.2A:</b> Retrieving, questioning, organizing, and using prior knowledge about a topic.			X
<b>LO 1.3A:</b> Accessing and managing information using effective strategies.			X
<b>LO 1.3B:</b> Evaluating the relevance and credibility of the source of information and data in relation to the inquiry.	X		
<b>LO 1.4B:</b> Designing, planning, and implementing a scholarly inquiry.	X	X	
<b>LO 1.4C:</b> Demonstrating perseverance through setting goals, managing time, and working independently on a long-term project.			X
<b>LO 1.4D:</b> Employing ethical research practices.			X
<b>LO 2.1B:</b> Summarizing and explaining a text’s main idea or aim while avoiding faulty generalizations and oversimplification.	X		
<b>LO 2.1C:</b> Summarizing and explaining the reasoning of an argument.	X		
<b>LO 2.2A:</b> Identifying, explaining, and analyzing the logic and line of reasoning of an argument.	X		
<b>LO 2.2B:</b> Describing and analyzing the relevance and credibility of evidence used to support an argument, taking context into consideration.	X		

<b>AP Research Learning Objectives</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>POD</b>	<b>Not Assessed</b>
<b>LO 2.2C:</b> Evaluating the validity of an argument.	X		
<b>LO 2.2D:</b> Evaluating and critiquing others' inquiries, studies, artistic works, and/or perspectives.	X		
<b>LO 2.3A:</b> Connecting an argument to broader issues by examining the implications of the author's claim.			X
<b>LO 2.3B:</b> Evaluating potential resolutions, conclusions, or solutions to problems or issues raised by an argument.	X		
<b>LO 3.1A:</b> Identifying, comparing, and interpreting multiple perspectives on or arguments about an issue.	X		
<b>LO 3.2A:</b> Evaluating objections, implications, and limitations of alternate, opposing, or competing perspectives or arguments.	X		
<b>LO 4.1A:</b> Formulating a complex and well-reasoned argument.	X	X	
<b>LO 4.1B:</b> Selecting and consistently applying an appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to form a scholarly argument or aesthetic rationale.	X		
<b>LO 4.2A:</b> Interpreting, using, and synthesizing qualitative and/or quantitative data/information from various perspectives and sources (e.g., primary, secondary, print, nonprint) to develop and support an argument.	X	X	
<b>LO 4.2B:</b> Providing insightful and cogent commentary that links evidence with claims.	X	X	
<b>LO 4.3A:</b> Attributing knowledge and ideas accurately and ethically, using an appropriate citation style.	X		
<b>LO 4.4A:</b> Extending an idea, question, process, or product to innovate or create new understandings.	X	X	
<b>LO 4.5A:</b> Offering resolutions, conclusions, and/or solutions based on evidence as well as considering consequences and implications.	X	X	
<b>LO 5.1A[R]:</b> Planning and producing a cohesive academic paper, considering audience, context, and purpose.	X		
<b>LO 5.1B:</b> Adhering to established conventions of grammar, usage, style, and mechanics.	X		
<b>LO 5.1C:</b> Communicating information using effective techniques of design.	X	X	
<b>LO 5.1D:</b> Adapting an argument for context, purpose, and/or audience.		X	
<b>LO 5.1E:</b> Engaging an audience by employing effective techniques of delivery or performance.		X	
<b>LO 5.1F:</b> Defending inquiry choices and final product with clarity, consistency, and conviction.		X	

AP Research Learning Objectives	AP	POD	Not Assessed
LO 5.3A: Reflecting on and revising their own writing, thinking, and creative processes.		X	
LO 5.3C: Reflecting on the larger significance of engaging in the overall inquiry process and producing a completed scholarly work.		X	
LO 5.4A: Engaging in peer review to provide constructive responses to one another's work, appropriate to the stage of a project's development.			X
LO 5.4B: Engaging in peer review to receive and consider responses to their work.			X

## Task Guidelines

Students develop a research question/project goal on a topic of their own choosing in an area of personal interest. They submit an inquiry proposal (see Inquiry Proposal Form, p. 57) for the teacher's approval, and teachers provide feedback that helps students refine their research questions/project goals. Once the inquiry proposal is approved, students begin their background research (i.e., review of previous scholarship) on their topic.

With assistance from the teacher, students may identify one or more consultant(s) — internal or external to the school — to serve as an additional resource. The consultants should be experts in the chosen discipline or field that the student is investigating or in the research method that the student chooses to employ.

Under the teacher's guidance — and using the consultants' expertise as needed — students design or choose a method to collect data and information and then analyze, evaluate, and select relevant and credible evidence to develop a logical, well-reasoned argument or aesthetic rationale that results in an academic paper of approximately 4,000–5,000 words. The argument or aesthetic rationale must directly address the research question/project goal. If the academic paper is accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., performance, exhibit, product), this work is not formally assessed but is viewed by the teacher and panelists to contextualize the student's research.

### Academic Paper (AP)

The academic paper must contain the elements listed in the following table. These elements should be presented in a style and structure appropriate to the discipline in which the topic resides (e.g., psychology, science, music).

<b>Required Element</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Provides background and contextualizes the research question/project goal and initial student assumptions and/or hypotheses.</p> <p>Introduces and reviews previous work in the field, synthesizing information and a range of perspectives related to the research question/project goal.</p> <p>Identifies the gap in the current field of knowledge to be addressed.</p>
<b>Method, Process, or Approach</b>	Explains and provides justification for the chosen method, process, or approach.
<b>Results, Product, or Findings</b>	Presents the findings, evidence, results, or product.
<b>Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation</b>	<p>Interprets the significance of the results, product, or findings; explores connections to original research question/project goal.</p> <p>Discusses the implications and limitations of the research or creative work.</p>
<b>Conclusion and Future Directions</b>	<p>Reflects on the process and how this project could impact the field.</p> <p>Discusses possible next steps.</p>
<b>Bibliography</b>	Provides a complete list of sources cited and consulted in the appropriate disciplinary style.

The nature of students' inquiries is open-ended in that students' approaches to their investigations and the type of research they conduct may vary widely. However, every student is expected to produce a paper that addresses his or her inquiry, and all papers will be subject to the same standards of college-level work that demand research conducted at a deep, rigorous level.

Students must avoid plagiarism by acknowledging, attributing, and/or citing sources throughout the paper and by including a bibliography. Students must also observe ethical practices when gathering information through such vehicles as interviews or discussions, and be prepared to sign agreements with individuals, institutions, or organizations that provide primary and private data. Students should also be prepared to obtain institutional review board (IRB) approval prior to engaging in research involving human subjects.

### **Presentation and Oral Defense (POD)**

All students will develop a 15–20 minute presentation (using appropriate media) and deliver it to an oral defense panel of three evaluators.

The presentation provides an opportunity for students to present the research question/project goal, method/process, and conclusions — similar to what a university student would do at the undergraduate level. The presentation should focus on the student's initial assumptions and hypotheses/ideas, the research question/project goal decided upon, and how the information collected to address the question supports his or her scholarly work. It should also address different perspectives and how those perspectives relate to the student's own findings and conclusions. Students explain and distill their argument(s), explain the rationales for their choices, and describe their research findings in order to communicate effectively to an audience of nonexperts. Students may choose any appropriate format for their presentation as long as the presentation reflects the depth of their research.

Students whose academic paper is accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., performance, exhibit, product) must arrange for the teacher and panelists to view this work prior to the presentation and oral defense.

After the presentation, each student defends his or her argument/aesthetic rationale or design choices, inquiry process, use of evidence or discipline-specific information, analysis, evaluation, and conclusions through oral responses to three or four questions posed by the oral defense panel. Three of these questions must be chosen from the oral defense question list, which is provided to students in advance.

The panel should ask one question pertaining to the student's research or inquiry process, one question focused on the student's depth of understanding, and one question about the student's reflection throughout the inquiry process as evidenced in his or her process and reflection portfolio (PREP). The fourth question and any follow-up questions are at the discretion of the panel. Students' responses to each question should be brief and concise (no more than a few minutes).

The panel should consist of the AP Research teacher and two additional panel members (consultants, other teachers, or discipline-specific experts, chosen by the AP Research teacher).

Teachers should offer students presentation guidelines including best practices for delivering information (e.g., vocal and movement techniques, use of multimedia or visual aids). It is strongly suggested that students be given opportunities to practice in front of their peers to gather feedback and learn how to respond succinctly to questions and critiques. Such practice is important to assist students in preparing for their presentations and oral defense.

## Role of Teacher

Teachers of the AP Research course manage the AP Research assessment components and all related processes. Teachers should be transparent with students about the role of the teacher and other consultants in this course and what individuals providing guidance to students should and should not do.

### Teachers

- ▶ must provide any necessary assistance to students in finding external consultants (mentors or experts in the field or discipline)

- ▶ must ensure students, consultants, and panel members are aware of the timeline, assessment task components, and scoring criteria
- ▶ must hold regular, individual work-in-progress interviews with students to discuss and provide feedback and guidance about the progress of their work, the effectiveness of their work with consultants, and any issues or challenges that arise
- ▶ must coordinate peer-to-peer feedback opportunities and provide effective guidelines and rubrics for peer- and self-evaluation
- ▶ may provide necessary background for a topic — including suggesting possible resources — so that students are not disadvantaged in their exploration
- ▶ may help students with the mechanics of the research process (e.g., strategizing to find answers to questions or helping them understand how to access resources)
- ▶ may provide general feedback to students about elements of their papers or presentations that need improvement

#### **Teachers may not**

- ▶ assign, provide, distribute, or generate research questions/project goals for students
- ▶ conduct research for students
- ▶ write, revise, amend, or correct student work
- ▶ identify the exact questions a student will be asked prior to his or her defense (i.e., students should be prepared to answer every one of the oral defense questions)
- ▶ provide unsolicited help (i.e., students must initiate conversations that call for teacher feedback, such as asking a question to which a teacher can then respond)

### **Role of Consultants**

Consultants represent a resource for teachers and students in a variety of areas (i.e., expertise in specific disciplines, fields, or methods).

#### **Consultants**

- ▶ when asked, should provide feedback and guidance to students regarding their choice of research questions/project goals, data- or information-collection methods, and analysis strategies
- ▶ may hold individual work-in-progress interviews with students to discuss the progress of their papers or presentations, explore issues and/or discuss topics and perspectives, and question students as necessary
- ▶ may provide necessary background for a topic — including suggesting possible resources — so that students are not disadvantaged in their exploration
- ▶ may help students with the mechanics of the research process (e.g., strategizing to find answers to questions or helping them understand how to access resources)
- ▶ may provide general feedback to students about elements of their papers or presentations that need improvement
- ▶ may vary in number, according to the needs of the paper or presentation

### Consultants may not

- ▶ generate research questions/project goals for students
- ▶ conduct or provide research, articles, or evidence for students
- ▶ write, revise, amend, or correct student work
- ▶ provide or identify the exact questions a student will be asked prior to his or her defense (i.e., students should be prepared to answer every one of the oral defense questions)
- ▶ provide unsolicited help (i.e., students must initiate conversations that call for consultant feedback, such as asking a question to which the consultant can then respond)

### Consultants may be drawn from

- ▶ the faculty
- ▶ the community
- ▶ local or nonlocal businesses and industries
- ▶ higher education institutions

## Instructions for the Oral Defense

Following the presentation, the teacher and the other trained panelists should ask three or four questions of the student. This evaluative component is designed to assess a student's response to the inquiry process and understanding of the topic explored in his or her research.

*Questions may be tailored to a student's specific project.*

The panel should ask one question pertaining to the student's research or inquiry process, one question focused on the student's depth of understanding, and one question about the student's reflection throughout the inquiry process as evidenced in his or her process and reflection portfolio (PREP). Panelists should ask these questions for the purpose of providing students with the opportunity to defend their conclusions and inquiry processes and offer reflection on the recursive nature of research. The first three questions should be selected from the list below (one from each category). The fourth question and any follow-up questions are at the discretion of the panel. Follow-up questions are intended to allow students the opportunity to fully explain and clarify their answers.

### Oral Defense Questions

#### Research/Inquiry Process

- ▶ After you chose your research question/project goal, which information guided your choice of a research method/artistic process?
- ▶ How is the method/process you chose aligned with the purpose of your research? Which methods did you consider and reject?
- ▶ What were the strategies you used to conduct a review of the literature or gather information from the discipline-specific field? Why did you select those strategies? Which strategies did you consider and reject?

- ▶ How did you evaluate the sources you collected to make sure they would be credible, valid, and reliable? Which sources did you discard, and why?
- ▶ What was one obstacle or challenge you encountered while performing the research, and how did you address it?
- ▶ What was the most important source of information you found while conducting your research, and why was it important?

### **Depth of Understanding**

- ▶ What was the fundamental argument/idea in your research? How does this argument/idea relate to the primary purpose of your research?
- ▶ Which of the various perspectives you explored was the most difficult for you to incorporate into your research inquiry, and why?
- ▶ What criteria did you use to discriminate among the perspectives in order to reach a conclusion?
- ▶ How might your conclusions/findings/product relate(s) to the current body of work in the community or field?
- ▶ What might be the real-world implications or consequences (influence on others' behaviors, decision-making processes, or discoveries) related to your findings?
- ▶ What additional questions emerged during your research? Based on your recent experience, what advice would you give to other researchers who might choose to investigate those questions?

### **Reflection Throughout the Inquiry Process**

- ▶ Which of your sources was the most influential, and in what way is that influence apparent in your final conclusion or result?
- ▶ In which specific part of your research process was your consultant most helpful, and how was he or she most helpful? What did you learn from the consultant about your field of research?
- ▶ If you could revisit the research process, what would you do differently? Would you choose a different area of inquiry, and if so, why? If you would choose the same research question/project goal, what different methods or approaches would you use?
- ▶ If you had three more months to work on this research question/project goal, what additional research strategies would you put into practice?
- ▶ Think about the initial curiosity that led to your inquiry. What other areas of inquiry might that same curiosity lead to?
- ▶ What unanticipated turn did you encounter as your research progressed? What were the reasons for this change in direction or focus, and how did you modify your method or approach?



## Reproducibles for Students

The following seven pages contain reproducible versions of the inquiry proposal form, performance assessment task description, and advising tips for AP Capstone.

## Inquiry Proposal Form

1. **Research question (with associated project goals if applicable). Include revised question, if needed.**
2. **Reasons for choosing the topic of interest and research question/project goal.**
3. **Data or information that will have to be collected to answer the research question/address the project goal.**
4. **Brief list of possible sources of information to discuss during the introduction of the paper.**
5. **Chosen or developed research method to collect and analyze the above data/information.**
6. **Equipment or resources needed to collect data or information.**
7. **Anticipated challenges to implementing the chosen research method (to collect and analyze data or to pursuing research methods appropriate to a paper that supports a performance/exhibit/product).**
8. **Expected approvals needed and from where (IRB, etc.).**
9. **Teacher's feedback.**
10. **Teacher's Approval (signature): \_\_\_\_\_**

## AP Research Performance Assessment Task: Academic Paper and Presentation and Oral Defense

### Task Overview

In AP Research, you will further the skills you acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as you address a research question/project goal. You will conduct research and implement a developed or chosen inquiry methodology to design, plan, and conduct an in-depth study or investigation of an area of your own interest, culminating in a paper of 4,000–5,000 words that includes the following elements:

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Method, Process, or Approach
- ▶ Results, Product, or Findings
- ▶ Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation
- ▶ Conclusion and Future Directions
- ▶ Bibliography

Throughout the course, you will document and reflect upon the research process and your communication with your teacher and any outside consultant(s) using a process and reflection portfolio (PREP).

In addition to completing your research paper, you will:

- ▶ arrange for a viewing of additional scholarly work (where applicable)
- ▶ deliver a presentation (using appropriate media)
- ▶ defend your research design, approach, and findings

### Task Directions

#### 1. Question, Proposal, and Research

- ▶ Identify a research question/project goal of your own choosing in an area of personal interest.
- ▶ Gather initial information for background and context on your research question/project goal and area of personal interest.
- ▶ Choose or design a research method and identify resources to develop your research proposal.
- ▶ Submit a proposal form to receive approval prior to starting your inquiry.
- ▶ Gather additional information, data, and evidence through a carefully chosen and aligned research method.
- ▶ Describe what you hope to learn, achieve, and/or create as a result of your inquiry.

(continues)

- ▶ With your teacher's assistance, connect with one or more discipline-specific consultants (internal or external to the school) to advise you through the development of your inquiry processes (if your inquiry warrants the use of a field expert or discipline-specific mentor).
- ▶ Maintain a portfolio of your inquiry processes, your communication with your teacher and consultant(s), and reflections on your thought processes and any successes and challenges you encounter.

## 2. Academic Paper

- ▶ Analyze, evaluate, and select evidence to develop a logical, well-reasoned argument or aesthetic rationale and conclusion in an academic paper of approximately 4,000–5,000 words that addresses the research question/project goal and conveys your perspective.
- ▶ You must avoid plagiarism by acknowledging, attributing, and/or citing sources throughout the paper and by including a bibliography.

Your academic paper must contain the required elements described in the table below.

Required Element	Description
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Provides background and contextualizes the research question/project goal and your initial assumptions and/or hypotheses.</p> <p>Introduces and reviews previous work in the field, synthesizing information and a range of perspectives related to the research question/project goal.</p> <p>Identifies the gap in the current field of knowledge to be addressed.</p>
<b>Method, Process, or Approach</b>	<p>Explains and provides justification for the chosen method, process, or approach.</p>
<b>Results, Product, or Findings</b>	<p>Presents the findings, evidence, results, or product.</p>
<b>Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation</b>	<p>Interprets the significance of the results, product, or findings; explores connections to original research question/project goal.</p> <p>Discusses the implications and limitations of the research or creative work.</p>
<b>Conclusion and Future Directions</b>	<p>Reflects on the process and how this project could impact the field.</p> <p>Discusses possible next steps.</p>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<p>Provides a complete list of sources cited and consulted in the appropriate disciplinary style.</p>

(continues)

### 3. Presentation and Oral Defense

- ▶ Develop a 15–20 minute presentation (using appropriate media) and deliver it to an oral defense panel. If your academic paper is accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., performance, exhibit, product), you will arrange for the teacher and panelists to view this work prior to the presentation. In your presentation, you should:
  - › showcase your research question/project goal, method, and conclusions
  - › focus on the evidence or data collected to address your research question/project goal
  - › illustrate the connections between the evidence you chose to support or refute your initial assumptions/hypotheses and the development of your overall conclusion or argument
  - › engage your audience using appropriate strategies (e.g., eye contact, vocal variety, emphatic gestures, movement)
  - › use a medium and design specifically tailored to engage your audience and illustrate your points
- ▶ Following your presentation, you will defend your research/artistic processes; argument/aesthetic rationale; use of evidence or discipline-specific information; analysis; evaluation; and conclusions, solutions, or recommendations through oral responses to three or four questions asked by the oral defense panelists. Three of these questions will be chosen from the oral defense question list, which will be provided to you in advance.

#### Oral Defense Questions

The panel will ask one question pertaining to your research or inquiry process, one question focused on your depth of understanding, and one question about your reflection throughout the inquiry process as evidenced in your process and reflection portfolio (PREP). The fourth question and any follow-up questions are at the discretion of the panel. Your responses to each question should be brief and concise (no more than a few minutes).

#### Research/Inquiry Process

- ▶ After you chose your research question/project goal, which information guided your choice of a research method/artistic process?
- ▶ How is the method/process you chose aligned with the purpose of your research? Which methods did you consider and reject?
- ▶ What were the strategies you used to conduct a review of the literature or gather information from the discipline-specific field? Why did you select those strategies? Which strategies did you consider and reject?
- ▶ How did you evaluate the sources you collected to make sure they would be credible, valid, and reliable? Which sources did you discard, and why?
- ▶ What was one obstacle or challenge you encountered while performing the research, and how did you address it?
- ▶ What was the most important source of information you found while conducting your research, and why was it important?

(continues)

**Depth of Understanding**

- ▶ What was the fundamental argument/idea in your research? How does this argument/idea relate to the primary purpose of your research?
- ▶ Which of the various perspectives you explored was the most difficult for you to incorporate into your research inquiry, and why?
- ▶ What criteria did you use to discriminate among the perspectives in order to reach a conclusion?
- ▶ How might your conclusions/findings/product relate(s) to the current body of work in the community or field?
- ▶ What might be the real-world implications or consequences (influence on others' behaviors, decision-making processes, or discoveries) related to your findings?
- ▶ What additional questions emerged during your research? Based on your recent experience, what advice would you give to other researchers who might choose to investigate those questions?

**Reflection Throughout the Inquiry Process**

- ▶ Which of your sources was the most influential, and in what way is that influence apparent in your final conclusion or result?
- ▶ In which specific part of your research process was your consultant most helpful, and how was he or she most helpful? What did you learn from the consultant about your field of research?
- ▶ If you could revisit the research process, what would you do differently? Would you choose a different area of inquiry, and if so, why? If you would choose the same research question/project goal, what different methods or approaches would you use?
- ▶ If you had three more months to work on this research question/project goal, what additional research strategies would you put into practice?
- ▶ Think about the initial curiosity that led to your inquiry. What other areas of inquiry might that same curiosity lead to?
- ▶ What unanticipated turn did you encounter as your research progressed? What were the reasons for this change in direction or focus, and how did you modify your method or approach?

*(continues)*

## College Board Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g. evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

## AP Capstone Tips for Students

1. Be prepared to perform your best on AP Exams! Your academic performance provides evidence of your academic achievements as a result of hard work in AP.
2. Send your AP Exam scores! During AP Exam registration, be sure to indicate the code for the colleges you want to receive your scores. This alerts them of your interest as a potential applicant and invites college recruiters to reach out to you to learn more about your AP Capstone experience and future research interests. The volume of AP scores received by postsecondary campuses helps drive support for credit and placement policies.
3. Indicate your participation in AP Capstone and your future research interests in college applications. It might prompt further consideration of your application and may even yield a scholarship possibility.
4. Be prepared to succinctly describe your AP Capstone experience and give a summary of your research and findings. This brief conceptual summary will help you advocate for college credit/placement and allow you to capture the attention of colleges offering undergraduate research opportunities that you may want to explore.
5. Check the AP Capstone website for more information about the colleges and universities that support the AP Capstone program and offer credit/placement for qualifying scores in AP Seminar and AP Research.



# AP Research Glossary

**alignment** — Cohesion between the focus of an inquiry, the method of collecting information, the process of analysis of the information, and the conclusions made to increase understanding of that focus

**argument** — A claim or thesis that conveys a perspective developed through a line of reasoning and supported by evidence

**assumption** — A belief regarded as true and often unstated

**author** — One who creates a work (e.g., article; research study; foundational, literary, or philosophical text; speech, broadcast, or personal account; artistic work or performance) that conveys a perspective and can be examined

**bias** — A personal opinion, belief, or value that may influence one's judgment, perspective, or claim

**claim** — A statement made about an issue that asserts a perspective

**coding** — A method for reducing data sets into categories or numbers for the purpose of analyzing emerging themes, patterns, or trends

**commentary** — Discussion and analysis of evidence in relation to the claim that may identify patterns, describe trends, and/or explain relationships

**complex issue** — Issue involving many facets or perspectives that must be understood in order to address it

**concession** — Acknowledgment and acceptance of an opposing or different view

**conclusion** — Understanding resulting from analysis of evidence

**context** — The intent, audience, purpose, bias, situatedness, and/or background (larger environment) of a source or reference

**conventions** — The stylistic features of writing (e.g., grammar, usage, mechanics)

**counterargument** — An opposing perspective, idea, or theory supported by evidence

**credibility** — The degree to which a source is believable and trustworthy

**cross-curricular** — Goes beyond the traditional boundary of a single content area or discipline

**deductive** — A type of reasoning that constructs general propositions that are supported with evidence or cases

**evidence** — Information (e.g., data, quotations, excerpts from texts) used as proof to support a claim or thesis

**fallacy** — Evidence or reasoning that is false or in error

**feasible** — Able to be accomplished within the time, resources, and processes available

**implication** — A possible future effect or result

**inductive** — A type of reasoning that presents cases or evidence that lead to a logical conclusion

**inquiry** — A process for seeking truth, information, or knowledge through a study, research investigation, or artistic endeavor/work

**interdisciplinary** — Involving two or more areas of knowledge

**lens** — Filter through which an issue or topic is considered or examined

**limitation** — A boundary or point at which an argument or generalization is no longer valid

**line of reasoning** — Arrangement of claims and evidence that leads to a conclusion

**literature** — The foundational and current texts of a field or discipline of study

**material culture** — Physical objects, resources, and spaces that people use to define their culture

**perspective** — A point of view conveyed through an argument

**plagiarism** — Failure to acknowledge, attribute, and/or cite any ideas or evidence taken from another source

**point of view** — A position or standpoint on a topic or issue

**primary research** — The planning and implementation of an inquiry to gather firsthand data or information pertaining to a topic of interest

**primary source** — An original source of information about a topic (e.g., study, artifact, data set, interview, article)

**qualification** — A condition or exception

**qualitative** — Having to do with text, narrative, or descriptions

**quantitative** — Having to do with numbers, amounts, or quantities

**rebuttal** — Contradicting an opposing perspective by providing alternate, more convincing evidence

**refutation** — Disproving an opposing perspective by providing counterclaims or counterevidence

**reliability** — The extent to which something can be trusted to be accurate

**resolution** — The act of solving a problem or dispute

**secondary research** — The process of gathering data or information about a topic of interest from previously published sources

**secondary source** — A commentary about one or more primary sources that provides additional insight, opinions, and/or interpretation about the primary source data, study, or artifacts

**solution** — A means of answering a question or addressing a problem or issue

**text** — Something composed (e.g., articles; research studies; foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; artistic works and performances) that conveys a perspective and can be examined

**thesis** — A claim or position on an issue or topic put forward and supported by evidence

**tone** — The way in which an author expresses an attitude about his or her topic or subject through rhetorical choices

**triangulation** — Implementing more than one research method and/or gathering more than one type of data set to strengthen the depth of understanding and validity of the findings pertaining to a phenomenon or observation

**validity (argument)** — The extent to which an argument or claim is logical

**validity (research)** — The extent to which conclusions of an inquiry accurately address the variables to be measured or align with the authenticity of the observations made

**vocal variety** — Changing vocal characteristics (e.g., pitch, volume, speed) in order to emphasize ideas, convey emotion or opinion, or achieve other specific purposes

**workshopping** — Presenting scholarly works to peers for feedback to inform or guide revisions

## About the Appendixes

The following pages include useful information and references for students, parents, educators, mentors or consultants, and colleges:

▶ **Appendix A: AP Research: QUEST Framework Essential Questions**

A quick-reference list of the overarching AP Research Curriculum Framework big ideas and the essential questions associated with each.

▶ **Appendix B: AP Seminar Course Overview**

An informational document containing an overview of the AP Capstone program and brief descriptions of the AP Seminar course content, pedagogical framework, assessment structure, and assessment tasks.

▶ **Appendix C: AP Research Course Overview**

An informational document containing an overview of the AP Capstone program and brief descriptions of the AP Research course content, pedagogical framework, assessment structure, and assessment tasks.

▶ **Appendix D: AP Capstone Program Timeline**

A timeline for teachers and school administrators showing key dates and activities to help inform decisions with school-wide implementation of the program.

▶ **Appendix E: AP Capstone Program Profile**

An informational document designed to be included with student transcripts being sent to colleges as part of a student's college application package. The document provides college admission staff with an overview of the AP Capstone program, brief course descriptions for AP Seminar and AP Research, and a summary of the credentials students can earn through program participation.

# AP Research: QUEST Framework

## Essential Questions



### Question and Explore

Challenge and expand the boundaries of your current knowledge.

- ▶ How might others see the problem or issue differently?
- ▶ What questions have yet to be asked?
- ▶ What do I want to know, learn, or understand?
- ▶ How does my research question shape how I go about trying to answer it?
- ▶ How does my project goal shape the research or inquiry I engage in to achieve it?



### Understand and Analyze

Contextualize arguments and comprehend authors' claims.

- ▶ What strategies will help me comprehend a text?
- ▶ What is the main idea of the argument or artistic work, and what reasoning does the author use to develop it?
- ▶ What biases may the author have that influence his or her perspective?
- ▶ Does this argument acknowledge other perspectives?
- ▶ How can I assess the quality or strength of others' research, products, or artistic works?



### Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

Consider individual perspectives and the larger conversation of varied points of view.

- ▶ What patterns or trends can be identified among the arguments about this issue?
- ▶ What are the implications and/or consequences of accepting or rejecting a particular argument?
- ▶ How can I connect the multiple arguments? What other issues, questions, or topics do they relate to?
- ▶ How can I explain contradictions within or between arguments?
- ▶ From whose perspective is this information being presented, and how does that affect my evaluation?



### Synthesize Ideas

Combine knowledge, ideas, and your own perspective into an argument.

- ▶ How do I connect and analyze the evidence in order to develop an argument and support a conclusion?
- ▶ Are there other conclusions I should consider?
- ▶ How does my scholarly work emerge from my perspective, design choices, or aesthetic rationale?
- ▶ How do I acknowledge and account for my own biases and assumptions?
- ▶ What is the most appropriate way to acknowledge and attribute the work of others that was used to support my argument? How do I ensure the conclusions I present are my own?



### Team, Transform, and Transmit

Collaborate, reflect, and communicate your argument in a method suited to your audience.

- ▶ How can I best appeal to and engage my audience?
- ▶ What is the best medium or genre through which to reach my audience?
- ▶ How might I adapt my written and oral presentations for different audiences and situations?
- ▶ How might my communication choices affect my credibility with my audience?
- ▶ Which revision strategies are most appropriate to developing and refining my project at different stages?
- ▶ How do I provide feedback that is valuable to others? How do I act upon feedback I have received?
- ▶ How can I benefit from reflecting on my own work?

# AP<sup>®</sup> SEMINAR

BEGINNING 2014-15 ACADEMIC YEAR



## About the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>)

The Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

### AP Capstone™ Program

AP Capstone™ is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments.

In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research in order to produce and defend a scholarly academic paper.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. AP Seminar may also be taken as a stand-alone option.

### AP Seminar Course Overview

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

#### RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisite courses for the AP Seminar course.

### AP Seminar Course Content

Students engage in conversations about complex academic and real-world issues through a variety of lenses, considering multiple points of view. Teachers have the flexibility to choose one or more appropriate themes that allow for deep interdisciplinary exploration based on:

- Concepts or issues from other AP courses
- Student interests
- Local and/or civic issues
- Academic problems or questions
- Global or international topics

Exploring different points of view and making connections across disciplines are fundamental components of the AP Seminar experience. Students consider each topic through a variety of lenses and from multiple perspectives, many of which are divergent or competing. Analyzing topics through multiple lenses aids in interdisciplinary understanding and helps students gain a rich appreciation for the complexity of important issues. Teachers should encourage students to explore a topic through several of the following lenses:

- Cultural and social
- Artistic and philosophical
- Political and historical
- Environmental
- Economic
- Scientific
- Futuristic
- Ethical

### Pedagogical Framework

Throughout the program, students consider and evaluate multiple points of view to develop their own perspectives on complex issues and topics through inquiry and investigation. The AP Capstone program provides students with a framework that allows them to develop, practice, and hone their critical and creative thinking skills as they make connections between various issues and their own lives.

Students use the following framework as they explore issues and topics:

- Question and Explore
- Understand and Analyze Arguments
- Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
- Synthesize Ideas
- Team, Transform, and Transmit

### AP Seminar Assessment Structure

Students are assessed with two through-course performance assessment tasks and one end-of-course exam. All three assessments are summative and will be used to calculate a final AP score (using the 1–5 scale) for AP Seminar.

#### Format of Assessment

##### Team Project and Presentation | 25% of AP Score

- Individual Research and Reflection
- Written Team Report
- Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense

##### Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation | 35% of AP Score

- Individual Written Argument
- Individual Multimedia Presentation
- Oral Defense

##### End-of-Course Exam (3 Hours) | 40% of AP Score

- Understanding and analyzing an argument (3 short-answer questions)
- Evaluating and comparing the effectiveness of arguments (essay)
- Synthesizing information to develop an evidence-based argument essay (evidence-based argument essay)

### Overview of Assessment Tasks

#### Team Project and Presentation

In this project, three to six students collaborate as a team to identify an academic or real-world problem or issue. Team members work together to develop a research question; they then identify approaches, perspectives, or lenses for examining the question and divide responsibilities among themselves for individual research.

Individually, students investigate an approach, perspective, or lens on the issue or topic of the team research question. Each student presents his or her findings and analysis to the group in a well-written individual report that

- identifies the area of investigation and its relationship to the overall problem, question, or issue;
- describes and analyzes the line of reasoning and evidence of the information collected;
- explains and synthesizes the range of information and perspectives considered and the relevance of that information to the problem, question, or issue;
- justifies the inclusion and exclusion of information advanced to the team; and
- cites and attributes any information included.

Working collaboratively, the team considers all the research and analyses from individual team members for the purpose of proposing or creating one or more solutions, conclusions, or recommendations. The team evaluates and integrates the findings and perspectives from individual research, synthesizing the most effective arguments and supporting evidence.

Together, the team prepares a well-written report that

- introduces, situates, contextualizes, and/or explains the problem, or issue and identifies each team member’s approach to that problem or issue;
- proposes one or more solutions, conclusions, or recommendations to the problem or issue that are based on evidence and consider consequences and implications;

Educators: [collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

Students: [apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-seminar](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-seminar)

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- appropriately acknowledges, attributes, and/or cites the ideas and work of authors of outside sources; and
- includes a bibliography of works cited.

The team develops an 8–10 minute presentation that conveys its key findings and delivers the presentation to an audience of its peers. The presentation and the media used to enhance the presentation should consider audience, context, and purpose. Following the presentation, the team will defend its argument, with each student responding to a question posed by the teacher. Each team member should be prepared to answer questions about any part of the presentation.

Finally, each student adds to his or her individual research report, a description of:

- how he or she approached the process of researching and solving a problem or issue
- how his or her understanding of the problem or issue developed and/or changed
- how working with the group deepened or otherwise influenced his or her thinking and writing

#### Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation

On or about Jan. 2 of each year, the College Board will release academic, cross-curricular source material (texts) focused on a theme representing a range of perspectives from each of the following domains:

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

The following will be represented in the texts: visual text and/or multimedia and quantitative data.

Students identify a research question of their own prompted by the stimulus material. They then gather additional information through research; analyze, evaluate, and select evidence; and develop a logical, well-reasoned argument of approximately 2,000 words. The final paper must refer to and incorporate at least one of the sources provided.

Students must avoid plagiarism by acknowledging, attributing and/or citing sources throughout the paper and including a bibliography (see College Board Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information).

Students each develop a 6–8 minute presentation using appropriate media and present it to an audience of their peers. This presentation is an opportunity for students to present their conclusions by building arguments that convey their perspectives. The presentations should use the evidence to support students’ own arguments and situate their perspectives in their larger contexts rather than merely summarizing student research. Finally, students defend their research process, use of evidence, and conclusion through oral responses to two questions asked by the teacher.

#### End-of-Course Exam

During the AP Exam administration window, students will take the AP Seminar End-of-Course Exam. The exam consists of five items (three short-answer and two essay questions). The three short-answer questions assess analysis of an argument in a single source or document. The first essay question requires the students to perform a close reading of two documents and perform a comparative analysis and evaluation of the authors’ arguments. The second essay question assesses students’ skills in synthesizing and creating an evidence-based argument.



# AP<sup>®</sup> RESEARCH

BEGINNING 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR



## About the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>)

The Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

### AP Capstone™ Program

AP Capstone™ is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments.

In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research in order to produce and defend a scholarly academic paper.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. AP Seminar may also be taken as a stand-alone option.

### AP Research Course Overview

AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question.

In the AP Research course, students further their skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by understanding research methodology; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. Students explore their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of the development of their scholarly work in a portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of approximately 4000–5000 words (accompanied by a performance or exhibition of product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

### RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

Students must have successfully completed the AP Seminar course.

### AP Capstone Research Course Content

Although the topic of each research study will vary, the course requires students to plan and conduct a study or investigation.

The course provides opportunities (activities/assignments) for students to

- Understand principles of discipline-specific research methods (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed)
- Employ appropriate disciplinary research methods to develop, manage, and conduct an in-depth study or investigation in an area of student's own interest, culminating in a 4000–5000 word paper (accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work — where applicable — to be performed or exhibited).
- Present (using appropriate media) and defend the research design, approach, and findings to a panel.
- Document their processes and curate the artifacts of the development of their scholarly work in a portfolio.

### Pedagogical Framework

Throughout the program, students consider and evaluate multiple points of view to develop their own perspectives on complex issues and topics through inquiry and investigation. The AP Capstone program provides students with a framework that allows them to develop, practice, and hone their critical and creative thinking skills as they make connections between various issues and their own lives.

Students use the following framework as they explore issues and topics:

- Question and Explore
- Understand and Analyze
- Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
- Synthesize Ideas
- Team, Transform, and Transmit



## AP Research Assessment Structure

Students are assessed on the academic paper and presentation and oral defense of research. The academic paper is approximately 4,000–5,000 words, and the presentation and defense take approximately 15–20 minutes.

### Assessment Overview

- Academic Paper — 75% of score
- Presentation and Oral Defense — 25% of score

### Format of Assessment

- Academic Paper
  - Introduces and contextualizes the research question and initial student assumptions and/or hypotheses
  - Reviews previous work in the field to synthesize information and a range of perspectives related to the research question (e.g., Literature Review)
  - Identifies the gap in the current field of knowledge to be addressed
  - Explains and provides justification for the chosen method, process, or approach
  - Presents the findings, evidence, results, or product
  - Interprets the significance of the findings, results, or product; explores connections to original research question
  - Discusses the implications and limitations of the research or creative work
  - Reflects on the process and how this project could impact the field
  - Discusses possible next steps and/or future directions
  - Provides a complete list of sources cited and consulted in the appropriate disciplinary style
- Presentation and Oral Defense
  - All students will develop a 15–20-minute presentation (using appropriate media) and deliver it to an oral defense panel. Students may choose any appropriate format for their presentation, as long as the presentation reflects the depth of their research. Prior to the presentation, students whose academic paper was accompanied by an additional piece of scholarly work (e.g., performance, exhibit, product) will arrange for the teacher and panelists to view the scholarly work.
  - The defense will include three to four questions from a panel consisting of the AP Research teacher and two additional panel members (chosen at the discretion of the AP Research teacher).

Educators: [collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

Students: [apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-research](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-research)

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# AP Capstone Program Timeline

## Academic Year Before Implementation

Date	Key Activity
December	Deadline to return AP Capstone Letter of Agreement.
January	AP Capstone Welcome Kit with informational and recruitment materials for AP Seminar mailed.
January/February	Annual student recruitment and enrollment for new cohort begins.
April	AP Seminar teacher information and projected student enrollment due to AP Program.
May	Deadline for all AP Seminar teachers to register for summer professional development.
July/August	AP Seminar professional development sessions.

## Academic Year 1 AP Seminar instruction begins in the fall

Date	Key Activity
August/September	AP Seminar instruction begins.
October 1	Deadline for teachers to complete the AP Course Audit form and submit course syllabus. Principals (or designated administrators) must approve Course Audit form prior to this date.
November	Authorized AP Seminar courses appear on the AP Course Ledger.
January	AP Capstone Welcome Kit with informational and recruitment materials for AP Research mailed.
January	Stimulus material is released for Performance Assessment Task 2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation.
January/February	AP Seminar teachers complete online assessment training for Performance Assessment Task 1: Team Project and Presentation and Performance Assessment Task 2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation.
February	Schools begin scheduling current AP Seminar students for AP Research.
April	Deadline for AP Coordinator to order AP Seminar Exams and preadministration materials.
April	AP Seminar and AP Research teacher information and projected student enrollment for following year due to AP Program.
April 30	All teacher-assessed performance tasks must be scored by teachers and then submitted to the College Board using the AP Capstone Digital Portfolio.
May	Administer AP Seminar End-of-Course Exam.
May	Deadline for AP Research professional development registration; all new AP Seminar and AP Research teachers must enroll in one of the professional development sessions.
July	AP Seminar Score Reports released.

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## Academic Year 2 **AP Seminar instruction begins in the fall**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Activity</b>
August/September	AP Research instruction begins.
October 1	Deadline for teachers to complete the AP Course Audit form and submit course syllabus. Principals (or designated administrators) must approve Course Audit form prior to this date.
November	Authorized AP Research courses appear on the AP Course Ledger.
November 30	Teachers must approve student inquiry proposals by this date.
January/February	AP Research teachers complete online assessment training.
April 15–30	Teachers finalize and upload scores for papers and presentations with oral defense.
April/May	AP Research students present summary of work and lessons learned to AP Seminar students.
July	AP Research Score Reports released.

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AP Capstone™ is an innovative college-level diploma program from the College Board that introduces two new courses, AP<sup>®</sup> Seminar and AP Research, that complement and enhance discipline-specific AP courses.

Students in AP Capstone learn and refine skills that are at the core of postsecondary success. The program helps students think independently, write effectively, research, collaborate, and learn across disciplines — skills that are essential for success in college and in life.

**AP<sup>®</sup> Seminar**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations. By analyzing divergent perspectives, students:

- ▶ Explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics
- ▶ Consume and analyze a range of texts, audio, broadcasts, and artistic works and performances
- ▶ Learn to synthesize information from multiple sources
- ▶ Develop perspectives in research-based essays and presentations, both individually and as a group

Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

**Note:** Some schools may choose to add a subtitle as part of the AP Seminar course. The subtitle indicates a special disciplinary focus or emphasis and may warrant consideration for credit or placement.

**AP Research**

AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. In the AP Research course, students learn to:

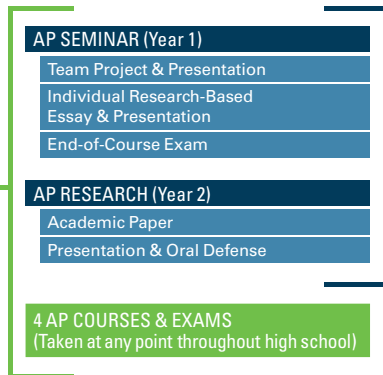
- ▶ Apply research methods
- ▶ Employ ethical practices
- ▶ Access, analyze, and synthesize information

The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense.

## AP Capstone Diploma and Certificate

**AP Capstone Diploma™**

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four (4) additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. The AP Capstone Diploma signifies a student's outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills.



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## AP<sup>®</sup> Research Course and Exam Description 2015-16

AP Research is the second course in the two-year sequence of AP Capstone™ — a program that allows students to explore real-world issues while developing the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges look for in their applicants.

This course and exam description includes:

- AP Capstone Pedagogical Framework
- AP Research Curriculum Framework
- Reproducible forms and instructions for students

For more information about AP Capstone, visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)