

AP RESEARCH SUMMER ADVICE

Passion, Methods, Research Design Details, Summer Reading, Cross-references, Details, Higher Math, Experts

#1 STAY ON THE WAVE, DO NOT PROCRASTINATE – Advice of nearly every AP Research senior. Your summer research will lighten the load in the fall. Stay on the wave!

#2 FIND YOUR PASSION – Find a topic you have a passion for!!

#3 METHODS, METHODS, METHODS – Carefully read the Methods section of all academic literature. Look for a method where you can replicate research procedures similar to academic researchers in the field.

#4 GATHER DETAILS ON DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION – Pay close attention to details about and originals of sampling surveys, statistical procedures, data, and research instruments. Always examine appendices for these sources. You may choose to incorporate significant portions of these materials into your research design. Note that these materials have already been scrutinized in a peer review process (big time saver).

#5 SUMMER READING, DO TEN & TEN– Find at least ten peer-reviewed sources published in academically recognized journals. Deeply read ten pages of each academic article. Where articles are longer than ten pages, focus your initial attention on the ten pages comprising the Introduction, Methods, Findings and Conclusions.

#6 CROSS-REFERENCES – Track cross-references as you assemble sources. None there = Topic too broad. If your academic literature has lots of cross-references, then you will find it easier to define an aligned research method. Look how they borrowed from other academic researchers in designing their research methods.

#7 DON'T MATH/STAT PANIC - Don't be intimidated by any math and/or statistics you encounter this summer. Take screenshots of all mathematics or statistics of which you are not familiar. You'll show them to Mr. Nelson in the fall for feedback on how much math/statistics must be acquired for you to understand and use the source.

#8 FALL IS TOO LATE (FOR GAINING EXPERT COMMIT) - Pursue “experts” to help you with your research this summer. For clinical research, an outside expert is essential to getting the Capstone candidate access to laboratory facilities and where IRB approvals are in place. If you cannot arrange an expert, no worries. It is not essential to doing an awesome AP Research paper.