



Question & Explore

Topic of Inquiry: the *detailed and specific* topic that a paper covers.

Discipline: a broad area of study (ex: economics, history, chemistry, etc)

Body of Knowledge: the information that's already been collected about your topic

Research Gap: something the **Body of Knowledge** doesn't cover; your research **must close a gap!**

! Make sure your research topic is **feasible** for the resources and time you have; be mindful of any **ethical and regulatory limitations**.

Places to Find Sources: JStor, HeinOnline, Google Scholar, Gale Database, Your Local Library, the **bibliography** of articles you read, etc

Use RAVEN to analyze the credibility of sources:

R: Reputation

A: Ability to Investigate

V: Vested Interest

E: Expertise

N: Neutrality



Understand & Analyze

Text Comprehension Strategies

- Use **active reading** strategies such as scanning, skimming, interrogating and rereading a text
- **Annotate** by taking notes, highlighting and reading out loud
- Read the **abstract** (1 para summary @ beginning) to tell if a paper will work for your argument

Parts of An Argument

- **Line of Reasoning (LOR):** the series of claims that work together to form a complete argument
- **Evidence:** anything used to support a claim
 - Ask yourself: Does the evidence make sense + do what the author says it does?
- **Context:** the background of the argument; what is this argument in conversation with?
- **Limitations:** the limits of a piece of research; what can't this argument cover?
- **Implications:** The possibilities that a piece of writing suggests. (ex: potential solutions to problems)
 - You might be able to use these to inspire your research!
- **Authorial Bias/Opposing Arguments:** Does the author reveal a bias? Do they acknowledge opposing arguments?



Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

Perspective: 1) The viewpoint that someone has on a particular argument and 2) the particular lens (ex: historical, scientific, etc) they chose to use.

Interpreting Multiple Perspectives

- Consider the **background, assumptions, and influences** of the authors when looking for reasons why two perspectives are different
- Compare perspectives using the **parts of an argument:** how do the main idea, LOR, Context, Limitations, Implications, Authorial Biases, and Conclusion differ or converge?
- Perspectives interact with each other: they may be **oppositional, concurring, complementary and/or competing**

Evaluating Multiple Perspectives

- Just like with arguments, make sure that the perspective is valid: Does it make sense that the claims and evidence → author's conclusion? Is there better evidence for one perspective vs another?
- Consider the **implications and limitations** of perspectives: what you can see through one viewpoint and lens won't be what you see w/another
- Make sure the perspective/argument is **useful for your paper!**



Synthesize Ideas

Research Paper Checklist:

- ☐ **Introduction & Literature Review** (introduces research question, reviews previous work in the field & presents gap in research)
- ☐ **Method, Process, or Approach** (Methodology) (provides explanation of and justification for the chosen method or process)
- ☐ **Results/Findings** (Simply presents findings or results)
- ☐ **Discussion/Analysis** (Interprets the significance of results in context of the research question)
- ☐ **Conclusion & Future Directions** (new understanding, limitations, implications, future research)
- ☐ **Bibliography** (Works Cited)

Tips for Research:

- Consult the AP Research Rubric to make sure you're meeting the necessary requirements
- Research methods come in 2 categories: **Quantitative** (numbers and math) and **Qualitative** (interviews, surveys).
- Take **lots and lots of notes!**
- Don't be afraid if something unexpected/scary happens!



Team, Transform, & Transmit

Final Presentation and Oral Defense Tips

15–20 minutes total | 3–4 Oral Defense questions | 25% of AP Exam Score

- Practice, Practice, Practice!
- Make sure your presentation covers everything you need it to; consult the rubric
- Make sure slides are visually appealing!
- Don't use too many bullet points; Viewers will either read your slides or listen to you but they won't do both
- Use many *relevant* pictures/charts
- Be energized when speaking!
- Make sure you don't run longer than 15 min to allow time for oral defense.

Oral Defense

- About 5 minutes (included in the 15-20 minutes granted for presentation!)
- 3 sets of potential questions provided by College Board
- You have the questions beforehand, **prepare your answers!**
- Make sure not to sound like a robot that memorized answers, show you are passionate about what you spent all year researching
- Answer thoroughly but don't get side-tracked. Make sure to **actually answer the question posed**.
- It's okay to **take a minute to think about a question** you get



Academic Paper Tips

4,000–5,000 words | 75% of AP Exam Score

- Don't include your name or high school anywhere on your paper.

Writing and Editing

- Use academic language
- Allow a few extra days to review and enhance your language.
- Spell/Grammar check; you can use software like Grammarly!
- Review & reread your paper multiple times.

Word Count

- Be conscious of word count, try for about 1,000 words per section.
- Paper can be as low as 10% under but this may be a red flag/Paper can be as high as 10% over but may mean you have unnecessary information.
- Review papers within your discipline and mimic formatting EX. table of contents, works cited (APA, MLA, etc.), page headers, title page.

- **Make sure all sources are cited.**

Organization

- Include subsections within each major section of your paper to break up info.
- It can be helpful to use **section headers** to organize your paper.
- Use graphs/charts if it fits with your research-make sure to always explain charts, don't just drop them in!