

**Committing to Your Topic**  
AP Seminar Post Exam Assignment  
*AP Research*

Although *Leedy and Ormrod* (your future textbook) states that the most important step of the research process is to have a problem or unanswered question in mind, you can't actually start the research process until you have a topic and background information on it AND the single most important thing you can do to ensure success in AP Research is to choose your topic wisely. Ideally, you should be investigating something related to the field you plan on studying in college, but other interests and hobbies can work as long as you have a passion for the subject. Once you choose your topic here - that is it, so make sure you LOVE it.

[Here are examples of topics former AP Research students have used.](#) *It is NOT recommended to continue the exact same topic from your AP Seminar coursework as it has been proven to be difficult to shift from little "r" to big "R" research under the same topic.*

You will have to conduct an *original study* on this topic, but to be able to do so, you will need to first survey the research in the field to determine a topic that is "just right":

- *Too Broad:* If your chosen topic is listed as a large and broad field (i.e. education, business, fashion, social science, etc) this is actually a discipline and it is too large to research as well. For instance, "education" is too broad a topic. You will have millions of results in each search.
- *Too Narrow:* On the other hand, some students pigeon hole themselves and make their topic too narrow. Continuing with the example in education, the topic of "educational theory used at Sequoia Union High School District Schools" is too narrow and becomes problematic as you may only find 1-2 pieces of past research on this given the context of research as a whole. Because the College Board requires you to conduct collegiate level background research [approximately 30-50 sources read (and 25-35 sources cited) by the time you submit your academic paper] that is not sufficient.
- *Just Right:* To solve this, you could broaden your area of inquiry to "imagination pedagogy used in elementary school classrooms" as it is not too broad and not too narrow, but just right. Your "just right" will be easy to discover once you have begun to read into the topic. *Can you find enough information? Or is it always too much and very broad information? Is your topic causing a rabbit hole effect, and you get stuck in too many different themes as you read, because none of your articles "talk" to each other and inherently create dialogue?* If so, you may consider altering it.

**Based on the information above (and the pre-research you did for your BOK), commit to your topic, answering the following 2 questions [on this Google Form](#).**

1. What topic will you focus on in AP Research? Write it in the box below.
2. Why did you choose this topic? What interests you about it? Explain in the box below.

**NOTE:** The topic you commit to in your Form above is what your annotated bibliography source cards have been completed on AND will be the topic you focus on throughout the summer (and the next year). The goal is progress, not perfection - and this course is about constant progress. The first few weeks of the year we will be reviewing your topic, narrowing the scope, and establishing your research question. Your topic will continue to be refined as you hone in on your gap and create your research question when you return to school in the fall. This is normal.