The AP Research Experience

What current and former students had to say:

**Current AP Research students:**

AP Research has not only helped me conduct proper research, it has helped me pace myself and meet deadlines when writing a lengthy paper.  AP Research has taught me how to properly edit a paper along with understanding and following a strict rubric. I believe these skills will help me tremendously in college. Furthermore, at the start of the year in AP Research I constructed an annotated bibliography. Before the capstone program, I had no idea how to do this and now I can. **All in all, AP Research has exceeded my expectations.** Reflecting on my process, I am proud of myself because of how much I learned in this class and the amount of valuable information I will take away from it. – K.A.

I have realized that, with taking this class, I will be more set for college. I will know how to write papers, conduct a research experiment, and know how to work ahead and not procrastinate. **I am very happy I took this class; I feel more prepared for college** and now I know what I should expect. **I would recommend this course to anyone**; it will be helping many for college and for writing and conducting research. – O.M.

**This class is something that you can't find anywhere else in high school, and it completely changed my perspective of research as a whole.** … Now that the year is almost over, and everything has been submitted, I am extremely satisfied with the work that I put in for the last seven months. **I have also just been granted the opportunity to apply to Florida State's undergraduate research program—an exclusive program that is only offered to a very small fraction of underclassmen.** – D.D.

**This class has taught me so many skills and strategies that I never knew I needed before the class.** … I feel relieved to finally have the burden of a 5000 word, quality paper off of my shoulders, yet, I am also glad I went through the journey because of how many experiences within I will never forget and the knowledge I gained which I will use when conducting research in college. At the end of the day, **I would recommend AP Research because** whether or not you like the process, class, or topic, **it is a very good learning experience that will without a doubt help in the future.** – E.B.

**Personally, I am an advocate for [AP Research] because what is to be gained is really in the process. The journey teaches you so much and at the end gives you a sense of pride and satisfaction at what you accomplished…you will get out what you put in.** It is a challenging class and…I completely recommend it. – E.S.

**At the end of this journey, I have been relieved and more confident.** The entire process of conducting research…is much different than most understand. [Because] of this class, the process of conducting research has become fluid and [I know it] can significantly help my future research…  **I would recommend this class to everyone.** One, to initially know whether or not you're even up for research and college level papers; Two, to use the process to increase your abilities to efficiently produce research in the future. Start now, not later.   – B.H.

**One of my most important gains throughout the course of this class was probably my improved ability to manage time and plan accordingly to deadlines.** These are all new skills I will take with me to college, and now that I can successfully say I survived AP Research, **I feel as if I can now better tackle and future college papers or assignments.** [T]he idea of writing a 5,000 word paper and conducting my own research intimidated me. However, as we began researching … and narrowing down our focus to one specific question, I began to realize that the entire paper really was not impossible to write. **… I am beyond glad I stuck through it. I would definitely recommend this class to anyone who is planning on attending a 4-year college or university.** – E.R.

I did not plan to take AP Research at the beginning of the year. My first thoughts were writing a 4,000 word research paper was not going to go over well with my enthusiastic love for writing excessively with no apparent reason. **I still have no idea why my teacher put me in the class, but I am glad she did.** **I basically did something that I am going to need to do in college every semester. At least when I did it in AP Research, I have my teacher and peers to help me along the process by reviewing my paper, discussing possible options with methods and what sources to use, and to provide emotional support. I have learned valuable skills in this class that I can use when I go to college…** - A.S.

At the beginning of the year I was a bit concerned about taking on the challenge of a year-long research project. As it turned out, however, this class was easy and I ended up learning a lot. … I learned along the way that a big task can seem huge if you don’t break it down and only focus on one step at a time. … **At the end of this class now I feel glad I took it. I didn’t think I would be saying this, but I do believe it was very beneficial to my writing skills and how I will write in the future. For college research papers I think I will have an advantage over students who have no experience writing this style of papers and will feel confident taking on the task of writing another one.** – J.K.

I would recommend this class to any student who plans on conducting research in college and wants to understand the process more thoroughly. Through my conversations with various current college students conducting research, the process [in AP Research] is very similar, if not the same [as the one college students are using]. **The experience gained from this class is irreplaceable in any other capacity and will prove valuable in college.** – M.H.

**I believe that [AP Research] was worth it.** I learned a lot about different types of research and how to conduct my own. … **I enjoyed becoming an expert in my area and benefitted greatly from the tools this class has given me.** The end of this journey is bittersweet. I feel a strong sense of accomplishment and a high level of satisfaction with [my] paper. **I highly recommend this class for all students who really want to prepare themselves for college because this class is one of the most helpful for academic and personal growth.** – L.B.

**After signing up for AP Research and hearing about the daunting task of conducting my own research I was nervous.** I had no idea how I would come up with a research question that has not been asked before and something that would keep my interest for the entire year. **However, as the days in the class went by, I felt more confident and a lot of these fears went away.** … I also proved to myself that conducting original research is feasible even for a high school student. **At the end of the journey, I felt proud of my end product.** – A.G.

**AP Research was a valuable class for the skills it taught. … All these skills will be very useful for college.** – J.L.

**The research process was not as difficult as I originally thought it was going to be** ... I am very prepared to do research in college and write a full research paper on my own since I have done it before. I feel that research is geared to those who are hardworking and willing to be pushed back and keep working to succeed. … **I would recommend taking this class because I feel that it shows you how hard you have to work to be able to do an entire research project, paper, and presentation on your own…** - H.B.

**I knew that AP Research would teach me how to write a research paper, but I did not realize the breadth of things that needed to go into this research paper.** I plan on doing research in college and possibly writing an honors thesis, and I definitely feel as though this class has prepared me for this. This class is for people who have an interest in something that they wish to evaluate. For those who want to discover, and those who are motivated. … [At] the end of the day it was a fascination that led them to complete their research, as well as their GPA. … [In] the end, it does not really matter what you get on the exam; what matters is what you learn from this class to take with you throughout life and college. **I think it’s very important to write at least one research paper, and do research before college. This ensures that when you complete research and papers in college you do not make the same mistakes you made in high school. Anyone that says this class is hard is lying. Take AP Research.** – A. F.

Former Capstone Students:

**I remember … wanting to drop out of your class due to my fear of it being too difficult and possibly receiving an overall bad grade in it. However, staying in AP Research was probably the best decision I could have made for my college career!** … I [had] to write a 10 page research paper [my first semester] … just like what we did in your class. I felt so prepared for this and wrote my paper confidently and in a fairly short amount of time because I knew exactly what to do and how to format it. … My friends here who had not taken AP Research in high school were constantly struggling with their paper and felt so lost… The best part is that my class just got our research paper grades back today and I got a PERFECT score on my FIRST college research paper!!! I will be using what I learned my senior year of high school all the way until my senior year of college. **[If there are] any other students like me who are considering leaving the class in order to have a worry-free senior year, please pass on this message!** –former AP Capstone student now at the University of Florida

**I’m definitely grateful for the skills I acquired through the process [of AP Research].** – former AP Capstone student now at Duke University

**AP Capstone is very helpful. The best value of this class is in doing research on something not taught in school.** What you end up studying in AP Research will come back up in a surprising way. My Research project came up in an Economics class my first semester of college. I encourage AP Research students to choose a topic that you know nothing about. – former AP Capstone student now at Northwestern University

**AP Capstone was a good introduction to gathering research information and putting it all together in a way that is meaningful. College classes all find a way to incorporate papers**… Also, getting used to being in front of a camera is important because, at least for me, we have a lot of video essays and projects. – former AP Capstone student now at Georgia Tech University