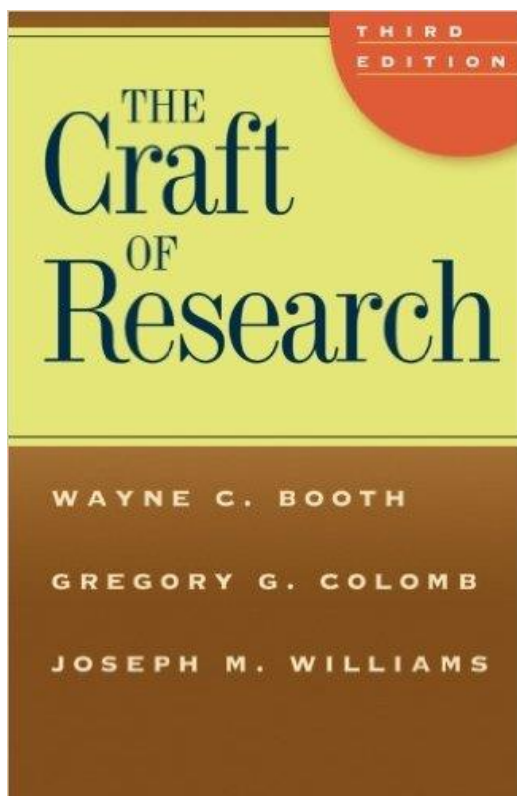


AP Research Summer Reading

I commend you on your decision to undertake the challenging, yet rewarding AP Research experience! Over the next year, you will have the opportunity to plan, design and implement your own independent investigation into an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest under my general direction. While you will build upon the reading, writing and collaboration skills you learned in AP Seminar, you will also have a greater degree of independence in your research and how you utilize your time. With this luxury comes a great deal of responsibility... organization, self-discipline, perseverance, and an open mind are the keys to success in this course! A quality 4,000-5,000 word academic paper is the final result of your efforts. You will also have the opportunity at the end of the course to present the results of all your hard work! In order to be adequately prepared for this journey given our time constraint of one short year, your assignment for this summer is twofold:



First, you are to obtain a copy of *The Craft of Research*. There are three different editions available- I suggest the Second or Third Edition. Used copies are available on Amazon for under \$5. It appears that PDF versions are available for free online as well, although the book constitutes a sizeable file for your computer's memory. Of course, you are also welcome to purchase a new copy for yourself. This is a classic handbook for novice researchers that will provide enormously helpful insight into what real Research is and what will be expected of you in the AP Research course. It should also invest you with some degree of confidence as you enter into this process and stimulate your mind regarding potential ideas for a research project.

Please read the first three sections of the book, in addition to the Preface & Prologue:

- I. Research, Researchers, and Readers**
- II. Asking Questions, Finding Answers**
- III. Making a Claim and Supporting It**

You are to write a paragraph in response to each of these sections, reflecting on (1) how reading the section changed how you think about Research as well as (2) how you plan to implement this newfound knowledge in your upcoming project. Be prepared both to discuss your responses in class and to turn them in for as a written assignment for a grade. We will continue to use this book throughout the year.

Secondly, you need to come to the first class of the year with at least three different interests you may want to explore for your research project. These should be written down with an appropriate amount of detail, from why you're interested in each topic to what you'd be evaluating in your research... and don't procrastinate! **I cannot overemphasize how important it is for you to have begun thinking about what topics you may research before our class begins in the fall!**

Have a great summer and I look forward to working with you this year!

Mr. Clayton