AP Capstone Research Summer Reading List Suggestions

You are asked to read ONE book this summer that employs research as a means for answering some sort of question. If you have a book you would like to read but is not on the list, you MUST email Mr. Hultgren for permission. Don’t be afraid to ask--I want you to read what interest you!!!

Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?
Author: Frans de Waal

What separates your mind from an animal’s? Maybe you think it’s your ability to design tools, your sense of self, or your grasp of past and future—all traits that have helped us define ourselves as the planet’s preeminent species. But in recent decades, these claims have eroded, or even been disproven outright, by a revolution in the study of animal cognition. Take the way octopuses use coconut shells as tools; elephants that classify humans by age, gender, and language; or Ayumu, the young male chimpanzee at Kyoto University whose flash memory puts that of humans to shame. Based on research involving crows, dolphins, parrots, sheep, wasps, bats, whales, and of course chimpanzees and bonobos, Frans de Waal explores both the scope and the depth of animal intelligence. He offers a firsthand account of how science has stood traditional behaviorism on its head by revealing how smart animals really are, and how we’ve underestimated their abilities for too long.

The Undoing Project: A Friendship That Changed Our Minds
Author: Michael Lewis

Forty years ago, Israeli psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky wrote a series of breathtakingly original papers that invented the field of behavioral economics. One of the greatest partnerships in the history of science, Kahneman and Tversky’s extraordinary friendship incited a revolution in Big Data studies, advanced evidence-based medicine, led to a new approach to government regulation, and made much of Michael Lewis’s own work possible. In The Undoing Project, Lewis shows how their Nobel Prize–winning theory of the mind altered our perception of reality.

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking
Author: Susan Cain

In Quiet, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, Quiet has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves.

When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing
Author: Daniel Pink

How many of us come back from a lunch break with the best of intentions for an industrious end to the day, only to suffer the dreaded post-lunch slump? Pink lays out the scientific case for this phenomena, a peak, trough, and then recovery of energy levels and productivity seen in people worldwide, across all cultures and geographies. By being aware of one’s own chronotype, i.e. when they tend to experience peak and diminished performance, (for the record, I’m writing this review right before lunch), Pink argues readers can be more effective in choosing when to tackle a new project at work, when to give a big presentation, or even when to schedule a surgery.
Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI  
**Author:** Grann, David

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances.

The Dorito Effect: The Surprising New Truth About Food and Flavor Paperback  
**Author:** Schatzker, Mark

We are in the grip of a food crisis. Obesity has become a leading cause of preventable death, after only smoking. For nearly half a century we’ve been trying to pin the blame somewhere—fat, carbs, sugar, wheat, high-fructose corn syrup. But that search has been in vain, because the food problem that’s killing us is not a nutrient problem. It’s a behavioral problem, and it’s caused by the changing flavor of the food we eat.

The Good Girls Revolt: How the Women of Newsweek Sued their Bosses and Changed the Workplace  
**Author:** Povish, Lynn

The personal and the political are deftly interwoven in the fast-moving narrative by Ms. Povich... *The Good Girls Revolt* has many timely lessons for working women who are concerned about discrimination today, and for the companies that employ them.

$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America  
**Author:** Edin, Kathryn J. and Shaefer, H. Luke

After two decades of brilliant research on American poverty, Kathryn Edin noticed something she hadn’t seen before — households surviving on virtually no cash income. Edin teamed with Luke Shaefer, an expert on calculating incomes of the poor, to discover that the number of American families living on $2.00 per person, per day, has skyrocketed to one and a half million households, including about three million children.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City  
**Author:** Desmond, Matthew

Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems.
American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food (and What We Can Do About It)
Author: Bloom, Jonathon

In one of the twenty-first century’s most appalling ironies, developed nations throw away massive amounts of food while people in remote lands starve. Journalist Bloom documents some specifics about the nature of wasted food in the twenty-first century and calls into question both the economic efficiency and the morality of such profligacy.

The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way
Author: Ripley, Amanda

How do other countries create “smarter” kids? What is it like to be a child in the world’s new education superpowers? The Smartest Kids in the World “gets well beneath the glossy surfaces of these foreign cultures and manages to make our own culture look newly strange.

Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us
Author: Pink, Daniel H.

Most people believe that the best way to motivate is with rewards like money—the carrot-and-stick approach. In this provocative and persuasive new book, Pink asserts that the secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home—is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world.

Beneath the Surface: Killer Whales, SeaWorld, and the Truth Beyond Blackfish Paperback
Author: Hargrove, John

Over the course of two decades, John Hargrove worked with 20 different whales on two continents and at two of SeaWorld’s U.S. facilities. For Hargrove, becoming an orca trainer fulfilled a childhood dream. However, as his experience with the whales deepened, Hargrove came to doubt that their needs could ever be met in captivity. When two fellow trainers were killed by orcas in marine parks, Hargrove decided that SeaWorld’s wildly popular programs were both detrimental to the whales and ultimately unsafe for trainers.

See questions below.
Upon returning in August, you will have a small group discussion on your book and present your findings to the class. As you read, answer the following questions to prepare for class discussion the first couple days back.

What was the initial question the researcher asked?
- Where was the first place the researcher looked for information?
- What were initial roadblocks the researcher faced?

What methodology was used? (i.e. surveys, interviews, experiments, etc.)
- How effective was the methodology?
- What kinds of qualitative data was used?
- What kinds of quantitative data was used?

What other methods could have been used to improve the research base of the book?

What conclusion did the researcher reach? How did he or she reach this conclusion?

The publisher is planning a follow-up to this book...what should be the focus of this book?
- What questions still need to be asked?
- What questions can you ask as a result of reading this book?
- What methodology would you advise be used for this next book?

***Take notes, annotate your book - do whatever you need to do to prepare the above material.