9.1 Preliminary Research Activities

# For Teachers

Task 2 will follow a similar project process as Task 1. However, there are some crucial differences—unlike Task 1, Task 2 begins from a less open-ended place. Every January, the College Board releases the official stimulus materials for the year, consisting of 6-7 sources selected around a few broad themes and across media types, subject matter, and academic/career interests. While this is a limitation not experienced in Task 1, it is consistent with the nature of Part B of the end-of-course exam. Generally, it provides students with various ways to engage the theme from things they are interested in or for which they have an affinity.

To begin, students will engage the stimulus materials much as they did in previous modules. They will read and create discussion questions and reflections, which will help them formulate the basis for individual mind mapping and preliminary research activities. Students will eventually select a single research question to evaluate and revise. They will complete an argument analysis for the stimulus material(s) they choose to integrate throughout this official task.

Per the official task, students only need to fully integrate one of the provided stimulus sources. Still, they need to generate a research question out of the intersection of at least two sources. As a result, it would be wise to have students submit argument analyses for each of the two sources from which they generated their research question.