

Step 2: Individual Research Report, Literature Review

Per The College Board Course Descriptions:

In this project, three to five students collaborate as a team to identify a problem or issue (e.g., local, national, global, academic/theoretical/philosophical). Each team develops a team research question and conducts preliminary research. They identify approaches, perspectives, or lenses and divide responsibilities among themselves for individual research that will address the team's research question.

Individually, students investigate their assigned approach, perspectives, or lens on the issue or topic of the team research question. Each student presents his or her findings and analysis to the team in a well-written individual report. Working collaboratively, the team considers all the research and analyses from the individual team members to propose one or more solutions or resolutions.

For Teachers:

For this practice of the Individual Research Report (IRR), students craft outlines for a 1200-word focused literature review that takes a detailed look at the perspectives and arguments available to their individually selected lens or sub-question related to the broader team inquiry. These individual outlines may follow given resource templates and should draw upon various well-vetted sources and assess their reasoning, evidence, and validity. They also need to use the resources purposefully to provide a range of perspectives on the specific subtopic of the team's research question and synthesize and mediate the sources as a conversation on the issues. Lastly, outlines must be well written, and use consistent source attribution techniques (per teacher directive).

Students should utilize resources from previous and current modules' lessons, handouts, and presentations. Students should also elicit peer feedback as they write, especially with formal meetings of their team, so that team members' individual works correlate and complement the full team inquiry as a whole. For this practice, students will receive formal rubric feedback and will meet individually with the teacher during the process to troubleshoot and revise for the sake of learning the skills to be utilized directly in the high-stakes projects of Tasks 1 and 2 (features which will not be available in Modules 8-9).