



AP RESEARCH: THE ROLE OF CONSULTANTS

Consultants represent a resource for teachers and students in a variety of areas (i.e., expertise in specific disciplines, fields, or methods).

Consultants:

- when asked, should provide feedback and guidance to students regarding their choice of research questions/projects/goals, data- or information-collection methods, and analysis strategies
- may hold individual work-in-progress interviews with students to discuss the progress of their papers or presentations, explore issues and/or discuss topics and perspectives, and question students as necessary
- may provide necessary background for a topic—including suggesting possible resources—so that students are not disadvantaged in their exploration
- may help students with the mechanics of the research process (e.g., strategizing to find answers to questions or helping them understand how to access resources)
- may provide general feedback to students about elements of their papers or presentations that need improvement
- may vary in number, according to the needs of the paper or presentation

Consultants may not:

- generate research questions/project goals for students
- conduct or provide research, articles, or evidence for students
- write, revise, amend, or correct student work
- provide or identify the exact questions a student will be asked prior to his or her defense (i.e., students should be prepared to answer every one of the oral defense questions).
- provide unsolicited help (i.e., students must initiate conversations that call for consultant feedback, such as asking a question to which the consultant can then respond)

Consultants may be drawn from:

- the faculty
- the community
- local or nonlocal businesses and industries
- higher education institutions

Source: *AP Research: Course and Exam Description*. New York: College Board, 2015.