



AP[®] African American Studies Individual Student Project: Student Workbook



Project at a Glance

Project Overview

Students in AP African American Studies will embark on an individual project to explore four related sources on a topic of their choice and then present and defend their analysis of those sources. The project aims to deepen student understanding of their topic and help them develop disciplinary skills.

Project Scoring

Teachers will use the scoring rubric in this workbook to assign a score to each student's individual project, which includes the following components:

- **Selected Sources Template** (2 points)
- 8-Minute Presentation and Oral Defense (10 points)
 - 5-Minute Presentation
 - 3-Minute Oral Defense

Exam Day Validation

Following the AP Exam's multiple-choice section, students will be asked a question about their individual project (2 points). This question will be similar to one of the sample project oral defense questions, but students will respond in writing to this question on the exam. Their responses to this project exam day validation question will be scored alongside the rest of the students' AP exam by official AP Readers.

The total project score including the exam day validation question, (14 total points) will contribute to 10% of students' overall AP score.

Project Deadline

Teachers will enter all students' project scores by May 31.

Project Sources

Each project must be anchored in at least four sources from any combination of the following:

- Primary text-based sources
- Secondary text-based sources
- Artwork and photography
- Literature (e.g., poems, short stories, etc.)
- Data sets and maps
- Music lyrics
- Performances (e.g., plays, music, musicals, exhibits)
- Oral histories
- Events (e.g., debates, public hearings, speeches, or testimonies)

AP African American Studies Individual Student Project Rubric

Rubric Row	Scoring Category	Skills	Task	# Pts	Scoring Criteria
A	Selected Sources	<p>3C</p> <p>3D</p>	<p>Students must complete and submit to their teacher the Selected Sources Template. The template must include the following information for four sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source type • Citation • Summary • Description of the relevance to project topic <p>The Selected Sources Template serves as a written description and summary of the project.</p>	2	<p>One point is awarded for the completion of the source type, citation, and summary for four sources in the Selected Sources Template.</p> <p>At minimum, each citation must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title or type • Date <p>Citations should also include if available and applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title of the publication within which the source is contained (e.g., book, journal, website) • Author <p>A second point is awarded for the completion of the “Description of the relevance to project topic” for four sources in the Selected Sources Template.</p> <p>Each of the four selected sources must be an actual primary or secondary source, not an encyclopedia (e.g., Wikipedia) article.</p>
B	Presentation of Findings: Claim	3A	<p>Students must include in their presentation their main argument or claim developed from careful study of the four selected sources. The argument or claim should serve as the anchor for the presentation and synthesize the sources and/or perspectives conveyed in the sources. The argument or claim should be more than a declarative statement of fact and must move beyond summary of individual sources.</p>	1	<p>One point is awarded for an argument or claim that serves as the anchor for the presentation.</p>
C	Presentation of Findings: Evidence	<p>2A</p> <p>1A</p> <p>1D</p>	<p>Students must reference each source by name and must describe a specific detail or piece of evidence from each source, and how it relates to their overarching argument or claim.</p>	4	<p>One point is awarded for accurate evidence from each of the four sources that are discussed in the presentation.</p>

Rubric Row	Scoring Category	Skills	Task	# Pts	Scoring Criteria
D	Presentation of Findings: Comparison	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px;">2B</div> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px;">2C</div> <div style="background-color: #c0504d; color: white; padding: 2px;">3B</div>	Students will provide and explain at least two explicit points of comparison. The comparisons must be relevant to the project topic.	2	<p>One point is awarded for an explanation of one point of comparison (similarity or difference) between two of the selected sources. The comparison must be relevant to the project topic.</p> <p>A second point is awarded for an explanation of a second point of comparison (similarity or difference) between two of the selected sources. Both points of comparison may be situated in the same two sources; however each comparison must be distinct and unrelated. Both comparisons must be relevant to the project topic.</p>
E	Oral Defense	<div style="background-color: #c0504d; color: white; padding: 2px;">3C</div> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px;">2C</div> <div style="background-color: #8e44ad; color: white; padding: 2px;">1D</div>	The Project Manual will include a list of questions from which the teacher may select. The teacher should share this list with students in advance to help them prepare for their defense.	3	One point is awarded for each sufficient response to three oral defense questions.
TOTAL POINTS				12	

AP African American Studies Individual Student Project Guidelines and Key Requirements

- Each student must develop and deliver their own presentation. This is not group work.
- Students are encouraged to practice their presentation with peers and solicit feedback, however this feedback must be limited to a description of the aspects of the presentation that are done well and areas for improvement. Students cannot provide specific feedback on how to improve their peer’s presentation or collaborate on sources or presentation content.
- While encyclopedias are acceptable for preliminary research, the four selected sources used for the project must be actual primary or secondary sources, not an encyclopedia (e.g., Wikipedia) article.
- Completing and submitting the Selected Sources Template is required. Students will begin each presentation by giving their final version of their Selected Sources Template (worth 2 points) to their teacher, who will need to reference this document during the presentation in order to assign accurate scores.
- Each student is limited to 5 minutes for their presentation, so students should focus on how best to use their sources within those 5 minutes. Students should not spend time in their presentation showing video clips. Rather, they must focus on their argument and comparison of the sources in order to earn points.
- Students are allowed 1 minute to respond to each oral defense question.
- The student can read their presentation; it does not need to be memorized.
- Students can use PowerPoint slides, a poster, or other visual ways of sharing information during their presentation.
- Teachers cannot submit project scores after May 31; students without a project score from their teacher will be scored a zero for this component of their AP score.

Student attestation

I understand these guidelines and key requirements for the AP African American Studies Individual Student Project.

Signature

Date

Select a Topic

Prior to commencing work on the project in class, scroll through the topics in Units 1-4 listed in the AP African American Studies Course and Exam Description (CED), make a list of at least three events, people, or developments that you find particularly interesting or have questions about. Please note that you are not limited to selecting an idea from within the AP African American Studies CED; you may choose any topic of interest within this field.

Select the topic that you find most interesting and conduct preliminary research by reading about it in an online encyclopedia.

Develop a research question to guide your inquiry.

Topic Worksheet	
Topic Ideas	
Final Topic:	
Research Question:	
Notes	

Research

As you conduct research, copy links to any source that you think may be useful into the Potential Sources document with a brief note on how it might be helpful.

Evaluate Credibility

Evaluate the credibility of your sources.

→ Step 1: Describe the author/artist/creator's background. Does the author/artist/creator have experience or expertise on this topic?

Yes: this may be a useful source

No: proceed with caution

→ Step 2: Describe the publisher of the source and the platform on which it was published. Do the search results indicate that the publisher or platform has a reputation for reliability or is commonly used for academic research?

Yes: this may be a useful source

No: proceed with caution

Evaluate Relevance

Evaluate the relevance of your sources.

Primary and secondary text sources:

→ Step 1: Reread the research question to be clear on the research goal.

→ Step 2: Read the title if available. Is it related to the research question?

Yes: proceed to step 3

No: consider moving on to another source

→ Step 3: If it is a scholarly source read the abstract; if an abstract is not provided read the introduction and conclusion. Are they related to the research question?

Yes: proceed to step 4

No: consider moving on to another source

→ Step 4: Search the text of the source for key words related to the research question. Clicking an icon in the upper right corner of most web browsers opens an option to "find" or "find on page." This tool allows the user to search the source for specific key words. Does the source provide enough helpful information on the topic?

Yes: this source may be a good option for the project, proceed to step 5

No: consider moving on to another source

→ Step 5: Concisely summarize the source in under three sentences and briefly explain how the source might help answer the research question.

Literature, visual art, performance art, and other non-text sources:

→ Step 1: Reread the research question to be clear on the research goal.

→ Step 2: Read the title and caption if present. Is it related to the research question?

Yes: it is likely relevant

No: more information is needed

→ Step 3: Examine the image or skim the text. Is it clearly related to the research question?

Yes: it is likely relevant

No: more information is needed

→ Step 4: If available, read about the source in an online encyclopedia. Is it related to the research question?

Yes: it is likely relevant

No: consider moving on to another source

→ Step 5: Concisely summarize the source in under three sentences and briefly explain how the source might help answer the research question.

Potential Source			
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Notes:			
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	Contents:		
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	Key Word Search	Image	Answers to the research question:
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Encyclopedia Information			
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Selected Sources Template

To document your research and findings on your project topic, use this template to record each of your four sources. Please submit citations for the four sources used in your project and identify the source type in the appropriate space. Include a brief description or summary of the key information from each source that has contributed to your understanding of your topic. If you used more than four sources in your project, only select the four that contributed most significantly to your project.

Submit this Selected Sources Template to your teacher for part of your presentation score.

Source 1	Type:
Citation: At minimum, each citation must include the source's title or type, the date, and if available and applicable, the title of the publication within which the source is contained and the author.	
Brief summary or description:	
Description of the relevance to project topic:	

Source 2	Type:	
<p>Citation: At minimum, each citation must include the source's title or type, the date, and if available and applicable, the title of the publication within which the source is contained and the author.</p>		
<p>Brief summary or description:</p>		
<p>Description of the relevance to project topic:</p>		

Source 3	Type:	
<p>Citation: At minimum, each citation must include the source's title or type, the date, and if available and applicable, the title of the publication within which the source is contained and the author.</p>		
<p>Brief summary or description:</p>		
<p>Description of the relevance to project topic:</p>		

Source 4	Type:	
Citation:		
At minimum, each citation must include the source's title or type, the date, and if available and applicable, the title of the publication within which the source is contained and the author.		
Brief summary or description:		
Description of the relevance to project topic:		

Teacher Attestation

The sources cited above were included in the project and were used by the student in the oral presentation.

Signature

Date

Source Comparison

Reading or viewing the sources and drafting summaries only serves as a preliminary step in this project. The final product, the presentation, is not a summary of source content but is instead an argument in which you support your claim with evidence or details from the sources you selected. Shift from analyzing your sources separately to evaluating how each source relates to the other three.

- Step 1: Review the sources, source annotations, and Selected Sources Template. Complete the “Answers to the research question” column in the Sources Comparison Table. For each row, explain one detail from the sources that answers the research question.
- Step 2: Use the guiding questions at the top of the source comparison columns to define dimensions of similarity and difference between the sources.
- Step 3: Review your responses in step 2 and use the guiding questions at the top of the conclusions column to evaluate the significance of the similarities and differences evident in the sources.

Sources Comparison Table:

Source Comparisons				
	Source 1:	Source 2:	Source 3:	Source 4:
	<p>Source 1: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 2: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 3: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 4: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>
Conclusions Based on this comparison, are you more or less confident in this answer? Why? Does this comparison indicate that there is a simple and straightforward answer to your research question, or does it indicate that the answer may be more complex? How and why?				
Answers to the research question:				
Answer				
Answer				

Sources Comparison Table:

Source Comparisons				
	Source 1:	Source 2:	Source 3:	Source 4:
	<p>Source 1: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 2: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 3: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 4: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>
Answers to the research question:				
Conclusions Based on this comparison, are you more or less confident in this answer? Why? Does this comparison indicate that there is a simple and straightforward answer to your research question, or does it indicate that the answer may be more complex? How and why?				
Answer				
Answer				

Sources Comparison Table:

Source Comparisons				
	Source 1:	Source 2:	Source 3:	Source 4:
	<p>Source 1: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 2: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 3: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>	<p>Source 4: Does this source address this answer? Yes: <i>proceed to the next questions.</i> No: <i>move to the next source.</i> Does the source provide evidence related to this answer? Describe this evidence. Does this source support or refute this answer? How? Does this source have a similar or different perspective on this answer? Explain.</p>
Answers to the research question:				
Conclusions Based on this comparison, are you more or less confident in this answer? Why? Does this comparison indicate that there is a simple and straightforward answer to your research question, or does it indicate that the answer may be more complex? How and why?				
Answer				
Answer				

Develop an Argument

Developing an argument that uses a line of reasoning to connect defensible claims to specific and relevant evidence is an essential part of academic presentations like this project. The project presentation should have a central argument or thesis that clearly articulates what you intend to prove to the audience.

Review your Source Comparison Table, formulate an argument, organize your research to support the argument, and draft an outline of the presentation.

Presentation Outline/Draft

Additional Approaches

Resource	Description
Internet Archive	An online library with free digital access to books and other media. A free account is required for access. archive.org
SlaveVoyages	A database on the transatlantic and intercontinental slave trade. slavevoyages.org
Internet African History Sourcebook	A database of primary source documents related to the history of Africa. sourcebooks.fordham.edu/africa/africasbook.asp
BlackPast	A repository of resources related to African American history and culture. blackpast.org
Library of Congress	A large digital collection of primary source documents spanning much of U.S. history. loc.gov
Art Inventory Catalog, Smithsonian Institution	A searchable database of the Smithsonian's art collection. siris-artinventories.si.edu
Readex African American Newspapers	Online access to African American newspapers from 1827 to 1998. A paid subscription is required for access. readex.com/products/african-american-newspapers-series-1-1827-1998
Chronicling America	An online database with full access to numerous U.S. newspapers from 1770 to 1963. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
StoryCorps Griot	Online access to a large collection of oral history interviews about African American experiences. storycorps.org
Colored Convention Project	An online exhibit and collection of primary sources from the convention movement. coloredconventions.org
Project Muse	Online access to full-text peer-reviewed journals from scholarly publishers. A paid subscription is required for access. muse.jhu.edu
JSTOR	Online access to full-text articles from multiple scholarly journals. Teachers and students can access JSTOR at no cost via AP Classroom. jstor.org



Oral Defense Questions:

Strategic selection of sources

1. Select one of the sources you used and explain why you chose this source to include in your project.
2. Identify the source that most deepened your understanding of your topic and explain in what way it added depth to your understanding of your topic.
3. Explain how excluding one of your sources would have weakened your argument.
4. Explain how you determined that one of your sources is reliable.
5. Identify which of your sources is the most persuasive and explain why it is so persuasive.
6. Identify the source that was most important to your research topic and explain its importance.
7. Explain why the four sources you selected, compared to other sources you considered but did not select, are the best for supporting your argument.
8. Describe the most important source of information you found while conducting your research, and explain why it was important to your research process.
9. Describe which of the various perspectives you explored was most difficult for you to incorporate into your project, and explain why this was the case.

Comparison of sources

1. Explain how two of your sources provide different perspectives on an aspect of your topic.
2. Explain how two of your sources provide similar perspectives on an aspect of your topic.
3. Explain why one of your sources is more convincing than another.
4. Explain why one of your sources is more reliable than another.
5. Explain how a combination of two of your sources strengthened your argument.
6. Explain how a combination of two of your sources added depth or insight to your understanding of your topic.
7. Describe any lack of agreement or contradictory information you found as you did your research. Explain what this lack of agreement or contradiction revealed about your topic.

Other questions

1. Describe one piece of information you learned from a source you used in your project that was not included in your classroom instruction.
2. Describe one piece of information you learned from a source you used in your project that adds to information you learned in your classroom instruction.
3. Explain how the research you conducted connects to a topic from the course in ways that you did not know or expect until after you had completed your research.
4. Explain how the research you conducted revealed additional questions or insights about your topic.
5. Explain why you were initially interested in this topic and how well your research aligned with what you expected to learn about your topic.