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Mapping Out Your Research: From Topic Selection to a Thesis Statement

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Mapping Out Your Research

From Topic Selection to a Thesis Statement

Description

Students will question and explore different aspects of their research projects through discussions with their peers in a topic speed dating activity. Reflecting on these discussions, students will draft a research question to use as they progress on their research projects. The session will then provide an overview of the next steps in research and writing.

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy

Research as Inquiry

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to identify the issues and unique perspectives that are part of their research topics and explore these aspects through discourse with their peers.
- Students will be able to draft a unique research question that offers a manageable focus appropriate to the criteria of their assignment.
- Students will be able to articulate how to move from a research question to a working thesis and into the first steps of their research.

Materials Needed

Slides: [Mapping Out Your Research](#)

Individual worksheet: [Brainstorming Your Topic](#)

Links to relevant libguides (optional)

Notecards for minute writing (optional)

Session Outline

- Introduction
- Activity: Topic speed dating (2-3 rounds)
- Mini lecture: Writing research questions
- Activity: Drafting research questions
- Mini lecture: Next steps of research and from research question to working thesis
- Minute writing (optional)

Assessment

- Worksheet
- Shared research questions

- Minute writing (optional)

Ideas for Adapting

- Differentiation: If students are at different points in topic selection (i.e. some students still have no idea what they should focus on), bring recently published books that relate to the course material and group the undecided students together to peruse and discuss potential topics (helps to have faculty or second instructor guide this group).
- If time permits, have students test the viability of their research topics using the library catalog or databases.