

What Research Topics Interest You?

ENGL 110

JRE

Purpose:

This worksheet is designed to:

- 1) help you identify topics that interest you, questions you have, and views you already hold
- 2) get you started on some quick research to gauge how “researchable” one of your prospective topics is.

Instructions:

Make a copy of this document for yourself and work through the guided questions. This document is for you and you alone so use it as a tool without restricting yourself to strict adherence to the prompts.

STEP 1: Brainstorm Interests (if you already have a strong interest, skip to STEP 2)

List or freewrite here the various topics/ideas/content creators you’ve found yourself engaging with lately.

Try here to construct a question or two that captures what you may want to investigate for the project in this class for each of the above ideas.

STEP 2: Identify Topics that (You Feel) Need to be Exposed to Audiences

What are topics/issues related to economics and/or the topic set prompts that you feel need to be further investigated and shared? Why do you feel this way?

STEP 3: Brainstorm Sources/Evidence

What personal experiences have you had with this issue, if any? What details from your life or the lives of your friends, acquaintances, or relatives might serve as examples or other kinds of evidence?

What evidence/information might you hope to find in encyclopedias, magazines, newspapers, scholarly journals, and/or statistical resources?

STEP 4: Do Some Quick Research Online

Try searching via google.com a phrase that captures one of the topics you've identified so far.

Add multiple phrases/terms together with AND (must capitalize) to fine-tune your search (e.g., “language diversity” AND “education”).

Try searching with and without quotation marks. How many hits did you get? What are the titles of some of the more promising websites that populated?

Save or bookmark any keepers. Jot down here the phrases you used that seem to capture your idea.

Topic 1: Issue in Your Major

Topic:

Searched Phrases:

Titles or Links of promising sources:

Skim through it. In what ways does it provide information or perspectives that relate to or differ from your own stance?

Repeat this step for two more topics that make you feel comfortable meeting the expectations of the topic exploration set.

Topic 2: Personal Interest Topic

Topic:

Searched Phrases:

Titles or Links of promising sources:

Skim through it. In what ways does it provide information or perspectives that relate to or differ from your own stance?

STEP 5: Reflections

How strongly do you feel about the topic(s) you've been researching in this worksheet?

Topic 1:

Topic 2:

What questions/concerns do you have about using each topic as your topic for the Research Project in this course?