

HANDOUT

Library Module: Library Research – Phase 1: Exploring and Developing Research Questions

Research for this class provides additional context for understanding the big question of humanity – What is it? How do we get it?

This module will take place in phases throughout the second part of the semester. You will learn about library resources, develop a research question, track your research findings, and share your research process and conclusions in a presentation to a small group.

Group/Pair Work

Below are several possible research topics for you to discuss as a group. Keep your own notes during this discussion.

Before you begin, elect one person in your group to share a couple of your ideas and questions with the class.

1. Exploring Topics

- Civil rights in Wichita
- Hunger and homelessness in Kansas
- Protest movements in the United States
- Legal rights for artificial intelligence
- Empathy and the brain
- Technology and emotions

As a group, discuss how at least two of these topics related to the big questions: What does it mean to be human? What leads us to be more or less humane? Make some notes below:

2. Expand the Options

As a group, brainstorm as many additional topics related to this class and your interests as you can. Aim for at least 10 as a group.

Think about questions of humanity in your major or other interests such as music, gaming, theater, public health.

Then list at least two additional topics most interesting to you below:

a.

b.

3. Creating Research Questions

Choose one topic as a group. Turn your topic into interesting questions. To create complex questions, start with “how” and “why.”

Brainstorm multiple questions for this topic. Aim for at least three.

Write one question below:

For more help: as you develop a research question on your own, check out the GMU writing center on [“How to Write a Research Question”](#).