

Discovery Worksheet

Name: _____

Here are some parameters you should consider when generating a final research topic:

- Make sure it's interesting to you.
- Remember that your audience needs to understand it, so don't make the paper topic too elementary (why Cookie Monster is swell) or too complex (How to assemble a nuclear power plant).

To help you generate ideas, fill in the following worksheet. It will work best if you take time to do this and not complete it in one sitting.

Make a list of at least 3 hobbies/activities/jobs you have.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Make a list of at least 3 things you would consider doing for a living.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Make a list of at least 3 places you want to know more about.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Make a list of at least 3 topics you want to know more about.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Make a list of at least 3 classes you wish were offered. Please do not put “sleeping,” “napping,” eating junk food,” etc. as options.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Make a list of at least 3 political/social issues that are relevant to your life. These do not need to center on national/international politics. You can think about your life at home, at school, and even online.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Topic Selection

Convert five items on the lists to research questions. Good research is a product of a well-focused question. It should be a question without a prefabricated answer. So for example, if you listed Italy as a place you want to know more about, you could generate the following research questions:

What are the five essential tourist sites to visit in Italy? You could easily write a paper on those five sites: their locations, their history, and their cultural impact (and you may find that five might be too many).

What is the governmental structure of Italy?

Italy is known as one of the fashion centers of the world. What activities make up fashion week?

How does Italy feel about American military bases on its land?

What are some of the most liked Italian foods, and what is their history?

These are just a few questions that could be used when you start research. You will find that your questions may change, expand, or contract. That’s okay.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.