



<b>Frame(s):</b> Searching as Strategic Exploration	<b>Level:</b> 300	<b>Learning Objective:</b> Students can identify potential gaps in the available
<b>Duration:</b> 50-75 minutes	<b>Discipline:</b> Any	

**LESSON PLAN:**

This instruction would be best in coordination with a longer assignment where students need to investigate a question deeply, whether for a paper or another type of project.

**Pre-class Preparation:**

Students prepare for class by reading an assigned article selected by the faculty member in collaboration with the librarian. This article will serve as a foundation article, and their research will grow out of a question arising from the students' reading of the article.

**In-Class Activity:**

- When students arrive in the classroom they will share with their table the different questions that arose in their reading. They can write their questions on the white boards.
- If students come up with similar questions, they can move to join groups that have similar questions to facilitate collaboration.
- They also identify the elements of the article that they would like to concentrate on.
- As a group they select common questions and brainstorm how they could investigate the questions further. A LibGuide is available to steer them to some likely sources.

**Independent Work:**

- Students will work in collaboration with peers on strategies to build on their knowledge to answer the questions that arose in their readings and discover new information about their topics.
- They will brainstorm keywords and create a plan to find additional sources.
- One technique they will use is to examine the citations in the foundation article, in the area of their question. They can ponder the following questions:
  - ⇒ Will looking at the research that the author looked at be helpful?
  - ⇒ Are there other articles of interest cited by this article?

**Wrap up**

- The class will come together again, and share successes and raise additional questions that were revealed in the process.
- Class ends with students sharing the additional resources they've collected and their plans for further investigation.

**Habits Addressed by this Lesson:**

- Be persistent, adaptable and flexible.
- Recognize that ambiguity can benefit research.
- Continually reevaluate an information need based on new knowledge and refine search strategies.
- Seek help when needed.