Activity: Topic Exploration Worksheet

# A guide to help you:

* Identify topics of interest
* Brainstorm keywords and synonyms to use as search terms
* Conduct preliminary research on a topic

# PART I. Brainstorming Topics & Preliminary Research

## Learning goal:Explore potential topics of interest, and understand how preliminary research can help develop your original research question.

## **Directions:** Identify topics of interest; search for each topic using CatSearch on the library homepage

**Topic 1:**

What interests me about this topic?

Keywords used to search:

Number of initial search results:

Useful subject filters:

**Topic 2:**

What interests me about this topic?

Keywords used to search:

Number of initial search results:

Useful subject filters:

# PART II. Search for Articles

## Learning goal: Find scholarly articles.

## **Directions:**

## Identify **one peer-reviewed article or resource** from CatSearch or another library database. Read it carefully and then answer the following questions.

**What database did you use to find your article** (e.g., CatSearch, Academic Search Complete, etc):

**What is the title of the peer-reviewed article or resource you found:**

**Write down the citation from CatSearch:** \*[Instructions can be found on our online Citations Guide](https://montana.libapps.com/libguides/admin_c.php?g=888597&p=6388078).

1. How does this sources help support your topic?
2. Has the source changed or added to your prior understanding of the topic?
3. What perspectives are missing from the source that you would like to know more about?
4. What questions has this source raised for you that you might like to explore further with research?