

## Assignment for Video #4 – Finding Research Questions

### Activity

1. On a sheet of paper, write the title of the tentative topic you chose in Video #3
2. Spend 2-3 minutes briefly writing about why you chose your topic:
  - What interested you about that topic?
  - Why is it important to you?
  - Why should it be important to others?
3. Afterward, take five minutes to briefly list everything you know about your topic:
  - What are some surprising facts?
  - What is the extent of the problem?
  - Are there common misconceptions about your topic?
  - Are there important trends or controversies involving your topic?
4. Then, spend 10-15 minutes creating a list of questions about your topic that you would like to answer in your paper:
  - Make this list as long as possible.
  - Try to take up different perspectives or stances on the topic you have selected.
  - What do you need to know in order to write about your topic?
5. Once you have your list, circle the questions you asked that you think are:
  - Most important to a discussion of your topic.
  - Most interesting to answer.
  - As you circle these questions, consider what kind of research you will need to conduct to answer them.
6. Finally, on a new sheet of paper, write down the one question you created that you think would be the most interesting focus for your paper. This will become your focusing question.
7. Below your focusing question, create a new list of questions that you will need to answer in order to address your focusing question.
  - Example: How can we address the problem of littering on campus?
  - Example Supporting Questions: Where does littering most commonly occur on campus? What options for recycling are available for students and faculty? What are current policies about littering?