

What advice do you have for future E110 students working on research projects?

Probably to not be scared about the idea of having a, you know, broad topic that they really have to focus on. I think in the beginning it can be kind of scary, but when you actually get down to it, it's...you know, there's ways to make it enjoyable. I mean, this is coming from someone who enjoys writing, so it's kind of a different process for me. But there are ways! Like if you pick a topic that's something that you find exciting, and something that you think other people would find exciting. Or even...I mean, if you're interested in it, most people will be interested in it.

And then I guess the other thing is don't be scared to use, like, library resources! They were so helpful for me: being able to sit down and like, I learned how to use the library because I, like, was writing this project and I needed to figure out how to find certain things. And just being able to walk through the shelves and find, you know, 16 books all next to each other that all talked about something that I could talk about in my paper was really nice. I would say Google is your friend, but not your best friend! That you should always always check, I guess, sources that don't come to you right off the bat. That don't show up in the first three listings on the webpage. Something like a book, and I had Spelman to back me up, with the personal accounts was great. If your E110 teacher doesn't give you a book, maybe find something...some philosopher or activist who has written about this. Find something that doesn't in your source say "website," because we are moving into a digital age, but there's so much out there that isn't online that is so important to have!

"Go and talk to people" is also one of my biggest recommendations. The fact that I was able to talk to a real legislator was so helpful in everything I did. Even if your topic isn't something like that where you have necessarily someone who is *right away* someone to think about interviewing, maybe talk to friends, family, strangers. The words that come from them can be more valuable than any statistic you can find in five-seconds with a search engine.

I guess the first piece of advice--it's so trite and I'm sure you've heard it from your professors--but you have to pick something that you're genuinely interested in. If you don't, all the research you're going to be doing--it's gonna feel so laborious. You're not gonna want to read those peer-reviewed articles. You're not gonna go into DELCAT and sift through all that information if you don't genuinely care about it. So that would be the first piece of advice. I think the second piece, if you like, is don't be afraid of change. You know, your original thought may not be your end result, but like, that's okay! And again, I alluded to it earlier, but that could be better than what you originally anticipated. I think there's definitely some beauty in that. I guess, also too, like read as much as you can.

I think something that for me was a little difficult initially was understanding you're not just gonna be able to type something into the search bar like, "sounds of the supermarket," and you're gonna have 50 great articles pop up. Sometimes the information that you seek is gonna be buried deep within something else. And it's up to you to find that and to be patient, and to kind of do your reading and do your due diligence.

It doesn't have to be daunting. One can first feel a bit overwhelmed by the degree of freedom that they have, but then, you know, that degree of freedom is indeed liberating. You aren't tied down to something per se. You are free to widen and narrow the scope of your search as much as you want. And I say, take the initiative and ask those questions that deserve to be asked. Those questions that you think haven't been asked yet or haven't been asked enough. Because, you know, that's what the university is. It's an engine for thought and

discourse. If you think it's worth investigating, go for it! And that'll add to that collective knowledge that we have, and hopefully somewhere in there is a seed of the answer we're looking for.

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