

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,300

Written Titles: Arak Journal, Selecting A Topic

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00:00:11,300 --> 00:00:17,166

[Music] [Written question: Describe your process of selecting a research topic.]

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00:00:17,166 --> 00:00:19,566

I'm a Political Science major and it's

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00:00:19,566 --> 00:00:21,100

and it's funny I was actually really

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00:00:21,100 --> 00:00:23,000

motivated to not do something related to

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politics. I was kind of looking forward

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to like doing something different just

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because I knew I was going to be

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00:00:28,100 --> 00:00:29,433

spending the next four years like

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talking about politics, researching it. I

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:33,366

was like I'm gonna do something

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different I'm gonna do something fun. And

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00:00:34,666 --> 00:00:37,600

then kind of the election buzz started

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00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:38,900

picking up and all the stuff was

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00:00:38,900 --> 00:00:41,366

happening. And the social media thing

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00:00:41,366 --> 00:00:43,866

kind of came about because I spent so

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00:00:43,866 --> 00:00:45,533

much time you know following tweets and

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00:00:45,533 --> 00:00:46,533

looking at different things that were

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00:00:46,533 --> 00:00:48,766

being posted. And I was like, I have to

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00:00:48,766 --> 00:00:51,400

read about it. A couple weeks into the

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00:00:51,400 --> 00:00:53,266

process I was like, "Yeah, I'm glad I ended

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up going this way, but if at first it was

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definitely kind of like, "Oh, I don't know

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00:00:57,700 --> 00:00:59,000

like everyone's gonna be writing about

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this, everyone's gonna be doing this. I

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00:01:00,700 --> 00:01:03,366

don't know if I want to also. But, I think

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00:01:03,366 --> 00:01:04,633

it worked out.

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00:01:04,633 --> 00:01:08,366

My interest in the topic is kind of

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00:01:08,366 --> 00:01:10,933

reaches back pretty far. I started it in

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00:01:10,933 --> 00:01:14,133

high school when I participated in the

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YMCA's Youth In Government program.

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Senior year I wrote my own bill as a

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mock legislator, and I really wanted to

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00:01:22,033 --> 00:01:24,866

tackle a big issue in Delaware that

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00:01:24,866 --> 00:01:27,800

happened to be the rape kit backlog. Once

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00:01:27,800 --> 00:01:29,800

I started digging into, "Well what are the

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00:01:29,800 --> 00:01:32,600

the big problems I see in my state." And

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00:01:32,600 --> 00:01:35,933

then when I got to my E110 class

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00:01:35,933 --> 00:01:38,766

and they said here is a book about

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00:01:38,766 --> 00:01:42,566

fixing things - make an essay with this. I

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00:01:42,566 --> 00:01:46,166

said, "Well, I know something we still need

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00:01:46,166 --> 00:01:49,000

to fix that it hadn't been fixed." The

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:52,600

research was a lot, like I said, technical

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00:01:52,600 --> 00:01:54,700

detail. It was finding out what's in a

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rape kit? What happens during one of the

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00:01:58,166 --> 00:02:01,700

forensic exams? This also meant I had to

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00:02:01,700 --> 00:02:04,000

research personal accounts. It couldn't

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,066

just be any more the you know, X, Y, Z and

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00:02:08,066 --> 00:02:09,666

things like that.

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00:02:09,666 --> 00:02:10,866

I guess the very first piece of

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00:02:10,866 --> 00:02:13,533

information was my first job was a Shoprite

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00:02:13,533 --> 00:02:16,000

cashier. So for me that sparked my

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:17,966

interest. I just always remember

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00:02:17,966 --> 00:02:20,400

wondering how people could spend so much

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00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:22,800

money in just a single transaction. Like

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00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:24,333

oftentimes it was more than my paycheck.

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00:02:24,333 --> 00:02:26,533

So, for me, that was just wild. You know it

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00:02:26,533 --> 00:02:28,166

was my first job and

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00:02:28,166 --> 00:02:31,566

I just had that those observations. And I

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00:02:31,566 --> 00:02:33,400

guess the second half of it is that I'm

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00:02:33,400 --> 00:02:36,233

a business major. So I'm pretty

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00:02:36,233 --> 00:02:37,900

interested in just like understanding

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00:02:37,900 --> 00:02:39,700

how things work operationally. And you

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00:02:39,700 --> 00:02:41,166

know like, what's the back end of the

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00:02:41,166 --> 00:02:42,966

supermarket and like what that all looks

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00:02:42,966 --> 00:02:43,233

like.

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00:02:43,233 --> 00:02:46,333

So I guess together, the research

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00:02:46,333 --> 00:02:47,766

the research paper is just kind of a

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00:02:47,766 --> 00:02:50,000

natural fit between that intellectual

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:51,966

curiosity and then my own observations

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00:02:51,966 --> 00:02:56,366

at my job. So as for the interest to the

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00:02:56,366 --> 00:03:00,200

topic I guess that ties a bit into where

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00:03:00,200 --> 00:03:03,166

I'm from. I was born in the Philippines. I

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00:03:03,166 --> 00:03:04,900

grew up a little bit there. And then I

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00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:07,800

moved to America. And growing up in the

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00:03:07,800 --> 00:03:09,800

Philippines, you know, you see that

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00:03:09,800 --> 00:03:13,700

first-hand experience of not everybody

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00:03:13,700 --> 00:03:16,600

can always get to eat at night. Not

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00:03:16,600 --> 00:03:19,800

everybody is well-off. well-to-do. And

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00:03:19,800 --> 00:03:23,133

that's what you get when you live

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00:03:23,133 --> 00:03:24,400

in when you're born in a third-world

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00:03:24,400 --> 00:03:26,833

country. And imagine my surprise that

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00:03:26,833 --> 00:03:30,366

when I come here to America, sure some

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00:03:30,366 --> 00:03:32,533

place is a bit better off. But this was

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00:03:32,533 --> 00:03:33,766

supposed to be the "land of milk and

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00:03:33,766 --> 00:03:35,166

honey", and yet people are still hungry

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00:03:35,166 --> 00:03:38,633

here too. My E110 class was with Dr.

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00:03:38,633 --> 00:03:42,766

Frank Hilson. And his class was centered

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00:03:42,766 --> 00:03:46,100

around the idea of taste. Of food and

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00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:49,100

cuisine. How it how it effects cultures

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00:03:49,100 --> 00:03:51,833

and how itself it itself is affected by

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00:03:51,833 --> 00:03:54,966

society and culture. And we explored many

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00:03:54,966 --> 00:03:56,866

different topics, until finally towards

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00:03:56,866 --> 00:03:59,500

the end of the semester he said, "As long

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00:03:59,500 --> 00:04:02,266

as it has to do with food, research a

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00:04:02,266 --> 00:04:03,800

topic that you're interested in." And I



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00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:08,033

guess somehow that question that I've

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00:04:08,033 --> 00:04:13,000

had about poverty and hunger, about food

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,166

insecurity, was in the back of my mind

100

00:04:17,166 --> 00:04:18,800

and suddenly made itself forefront and

101

00:04:18,800 --> 00:04:20,766

said, "Hey, you've been thinking about this

102

00:04:20,766 --> 00:04:23,400

for a while, how about you think about it

103

00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:25,866

with a pen in your hand?"

104

00:04:25,866 --> 00:04:26,100

you

105

00:04:26,100 --> 00:04:33,633

[Music] [University of Delaware, Library, Museums & Press animated logo.]