Finding a Passion for Research

Think of a passion, interest, talent, problem, question, or concern that you are curious about. This issue may or may not affect you directly, but it should be one that interests or concerns you. Use the following questions to help you think about and clarify this area:

**What…**
- am I passionate about?
- are my talents and abilities?
- are my plans and goals for the future
- subjects have I taken that I really enjoyed?
- research have I conducted before?
- work experience have I acquired related to my area of interest?
- areas or subjects interest me?

**When…**
- have I demonstrated curiosity about a subject?

**Who…**
- have been significant influences in my life?
- among the faculty could be a good mentor for this topic?
- are people who have similar interests to me?
- can be people who will encourage and hold me accountable along the way?

**How…**
- will I prioritize my time to include research?
- will my research compliment my academic goals
- can I get more information about my specific area of interest?
**Finding Your Passion for Research**

**Reflection**

**Purpose:** to prompt students to reflect on their talents, interests, and abilities and how those contribute to their desire to conduct undergraduate research.

**Assignment:** Using their responses from the worksheet above students will write an original 2 page reflection paper addressing how their unique background and interests will support their involvement in conducting undergraduate research. Students must address the following questions:

1. How have your background and life experiences contributed to your desire to conduct undergraduate research?

2. What obstacles do you anticipate as you seek to conduct undergraduate research? How will you address and/or overcome these challenges?

3. Describe three potential topics or areas of research that you could conduct? What are the pros and cons to each topic? How does each area tie into your major and/or career aspirations?