

Selecting a Thesis/Creative Project Topic

(REPEAT THIS PROCESS AS LONG AS IT TAKES UNTIL YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH YOUR FINAL THESIS QUESTION)

Start this process by reflecting on content of interest from course work, projects in courses, other experiences in or out of MU (e.g., internships, research with faculty), conversations with faculty (ask them about their research, scholarship, or creative endeavors). Reach out to faculty, Dr. Thyrum, other students, and attend the Thesis Workshop and Thesis Q and A.

1. What topics am I interested in (as many as you can think of), within my field of study, and even something else that could be combined with my field of study? (NOTE: you do not need to complete your thesis or creative project IN your major.)
2. What problems exist within my field of study?
3. What do I already know about these problems/topics? (As this worksheet continues, feel free to push some of the topics aside that you begin to feel are irrelevant, or cannot be used to answer the questions at hand.)
4. What don't I know and what do I want to know about these problems/topics?
5. Begin to explore sources in your discipline (e.g., professional journal articles) to discover the existing literature on this problem/topic. This is an important step that can unfold as you read more and more sources. As you read more sources and have conversations with a potential advisor, your topic will become clearer and more focused.
6. Select your top/favorite question:

7. Refine your question:
 - a. Continue to review professional sources. Write down some primary sources:

 - b. Is this question too narrow or too broad? If so, try to adjust it, so it is just right:

8. Determine ***feasibility*** (*remember, you will finish this project within a few semesters – you do not have 3 years and thousands of dollars*):
 - a. What methodology could be used to answer this question?

 - b. Are the necessary data readily available? Again, write down sources:

 - c. Do I have enough time, support, equipment, and resources to answer this question or complete this question?

 - d. Do I have the skillset to address this question, and if not, how can I prepare myself, or revise the question?

FINAL RESEARCH/CREATIVE QUESTION TO PURSUE: