

Interest Inventory

From Bruce Ballenger's *The Curious Researcher*, 7th ed.

If you are looking for a research topic (or if a professor has prescribed a general topic but you're not sure which direction to take), try making an "interest inventory." For about 20 minutes, brainstorm for a list of ideas that come to mind when you think of the categories below. Then look over your list and circle any item that raises interesting questions for you. After you've got one, generate a list of as many questions as you can.

Places

Trends

Habits

Technologies

People

Controversies

History

Jobs/Hobbies

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