Find a Grant Program Instructor Guide

Overview:

This module is meant to be integrated into a freshman-level engineering course to begin to take away the "mystery" about how research gets done and explain why society pays for publicly funded research. In the context of the university we need to show what research looks like primarily in the lab context. Students should appreciate what goes on behind the scenes about how a lab is funded and accomplishes research and why agencies fund that research. This activity begins with a reflection "minute paper" and then a homework assignment to investigate grant programs.

Objectives:

- Have students reflect on their ideas about research
- Have students understand the process of starting and engaging in research
- Make students aware of how and why research is funded

Class time needed: 15-20 minutes

- 5 min. – Minute Paper Reflection

- 5 min. – Watch "How Research Gets Done" Video

- 5 min. – Post-Video Reflection

Instructor Resources:

- Instructor Guide

- Link to "How Research Gets Done" Video

- "Find a Grant Program" Handout

Class Preparation:

1) Read through the Instructor guide
2) Read through the "Find a Grant Program" Handout.
3) Print out (if necessary) the "Find a Grant Program" Handouts.
4) Have some device ready to time out exactly 60 or 120 seconds.

Procedure:

1) Instruct students to reflect on the process of doing research. Before distributing the handout, read through the prompts and instruct the students to reflect on their prompts before writing their answers.

2) Distribute **Find a Grant Program** handout. Have a timer to set up 60 seconds of reflection and 60 seconds of writing. Have the students write their responses to **Part 1** of the handout.

3) Watch the **How Research Gets Done** video.

4) Have students reread their answers to **Part 1** and then respond to the prompts of **Part 2** either individually or with a partner.

5) Assign students **Part 3** of the handout as homework. Show the students the NSF website as an example resource where they may find information to complete the assignment.