

So you want to do research? Why is that important?

This is a short module to introduce students to the concept of research and connect it with EML. The following is offered as a guide to help with facilitating discussion. The discussion can take place in any classroom or small group setting. It is targeted to new students (such as incoming freshmen) who might not have considered getting involved in research. This could be an introduction to engineering course, a new student orientation, or possibly with a student group professional society such as an ASME Student Section.

To set up the video, begin by asking the students to come up with a definition of research. This could be done in a think, pair, share session or as a general group discussion. If a think, pair, share technique is used, bring the class together and talk for a few minutes about the definitions. Then play the video. It is only 2 minutes and 20 seconds long.

After the video, ask if the group if they want to change their definition of research. Have them comment on the role of EML and the three Cs in research:

Curiosity – needed to identify research topics and how to approach them

Connecting Information – using what is known to discover what is unknown

Creating Value – applying knowledge to create value, possibly with commercialization

Ask the following questions to determine the interest in research by the students:

1. What are some of the benefits of research that the students in the video discussed? Are there any other benefits?
2. Are there reasons not to participate in research?