

Why Do Research?: Reflection Activity

Description

This a reflection exercise only without the use of video. Should the accompanying video become available the instructor can do the post video questions contained in the EM in Research 101 Activities. For now, this will be a series of four reflective question times which will be posed to groups from two to four. Some introduction is assumed like "What is Research?" should be already addressed. If not students should be asked to define research prior to the reflective questions. The students will be asked to answer the reflective questions and a short discussion time after each question will be facilitated by the instructor. The four questions are in the "Why do Research Reflection Activity" handout.

Explanation time:

2-3 minutes introduction

2-3 minutes per each reflective question (4)

3-4 minutes after each reflective question

2-3 minutes closure

Total Completion time: *total 15-22 minutes*

Learning Objectives

Students often do not take the time to examine the technology around them, to imagine what it took to commercialize that item, and how their life has been impacted by the item. The next step is to look at what the world would be like without that item (think cell phones, personal computers, cars, etc...)

Through this activity, students will:

1. Gain an appreciation for the technology around them that they use every day.
2. Identify reasons people might be involved in research.
3. Describe the benefits of research to the researcher and society?
4. Discuss how research might impact their hope for a job/career after graduation.

Instructor Tips

- This is to be an in class only exercise to stimulate thought about research.
- More or less time could be allocated depending on student interest and reaction.
- An out of class activity to research in more depth one particular technology and trace its development might be appropriate. This could identify what role research played in this development.

Materials

Handout with reflective questions might be appropriate.

Procedure

This would be done in class when appropriate. Probably it should be an activity at the beginning of a class to keep the student interested. Encourage students to come talk about research if they are interested, especially due to the last question.