

Inventory your interests by creating FIVE separate lists on a page of your notebook. Choose among the following words as a general category for each of the first lists you will create:

PLACES, TRENDS, THINGS, TECHNOLOGIES, PEOPLE, CONTROVERSIES, HISTORY, JOBS, HABITS, HOBBIES

In each of the FIVE categories you choose, brainstorm a list of at least three questions that you would love to know the answer to.

Example:

1. Travel
  - a. Where are the best places to travel on a budget?
  - b. Where are the best places to travel for good street food?
  - c. How can a person on a budget make traveling more affordable?
2. Education
  - a. What are the best methods for encouraging students to read?
  - b. What are the best strategies to teach struggling readers?
  - c. Which Master's program would help me most in my career?
3. Communication
  - a. How can I overcome shyness?
  - b. How can I give my friend life advice without hurting his/her feelings?
  - c. What methods can I employ to be a more effective public speaker?
4. Mental Health
  - a. What can I do to help my family, friends, and students who struggle with mental health issues?
  - b. What can schools do to address the mental health needs of students?
  - c. Can mental health programs help stop mass shootings?
5. Antiques
  - a. Where is the best region to purchase depression glass?
  - b. What should I know before refinishing antique furniture?
  - c. How can I tell if an antique is real or a reproduction?

**MINIMUM 5 CATEGORIES WITH 3 QUESTIONS LISTED UNDER EACH (15 total)**

Choose ONE question from today's list, and use it as a prompt for a fastwrite. Begin by telling yourself the story of WHEN, WHERE, and WHY you first got interested in the subject. When the writing stalls, write the following phrase, and follow it for as long as you can: *Among the things I most want to learn about this are...*

\*MINIMUM 10 LINES

Interesting research questions can emerge from the most ordinary experiences. The key is to figure out what you might want to know about ordinary experiences that research might help answer. Take one of the subjects below, or another that you think of:

Eating, friendship, running, dreaming, depression, texting, infatuation, insomnia, listening to music, body language, intelligence, addiction, etc.

Begin a fastwrite with this phrase: *The thing that I've always found interesting about \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ . For example, \_\_\_\_\_ .* Follow this writing until it stalls, and then pick another ordinary experience, and do it again.