

Further Lines of Questioning

Objective:

*After reading the assigned selections in Dual Credit English, students will work to **create** a list of research questions that can be formulated in response to the readings. This list will serve as **evidence of analytical thinking**. This list will also serve as a way to ground and start the focus of the Research-Based Analysis assigned as the culminating paper of the course.*

Research questions should consider: *What things are still left unanswered? What are the issues or aspects presented in the reading that need to be examined? What other questions do you have after reading? What other themes or issues, perhaps unrelated to the contents of the article, does the text make you wonder about?*

Remember a research question begins with **“How?”**, **“Why?”** or **“To what extent?”**. This collective list will serve as possible research focus options for the end of semester Research-Based Analysis.

Below are various research questions for each unit.

Research Question Compilation:

Unit 1: Analytical Summary

Ellin, “Blame the Princess”

1. **To what extent** is the media to blame for delusions people have that control a large part of their thinking and behavior?
2. **To what extent** has media predominantly enforced societal norms targeting women rather than men?
3. **To what extent** does princess culture show up more in the US rather than other countries?
4. **To what extent**, how has princess culture affected the characteristics that women look for when choosing a partner?
5. **Why** are many young girls and women naturally drawn towards the idea and feeling of princess culture?
6. **To what extent** has the independence of newer Disney princesses influenced young girls to feel about marriage?
7. **How** has the wedding industry contributed to the fantasy many women have about getting married?
8. **To what extent** has princess culture affected men’s decisions in wedding planning and the role they play?

Cauterucci, "The Adult Bodies Playing Teens on TV"

1. **How** does exploitation of certain people groups show up in the fashion industry?
2. **To what extent** does the confusion stemming from the more mature depictions of teenage people in television and comparing them to today's teenagers become normal?
3. **To what extent** has the dominance of adult actors in adolescent roles contributed to sexual topics being portrayed rather than the intent of the authors before casting?
4. **To what extent** do we notice adults playing younger roles in comparison to younger people playing older roles?
5. **Why** has our society fallen in love with false portrayals in the media we view if "reality" is often the goal of such media?
6. **How** does the process of casting for a television show for teen actors influence the age of the actor that ends up playing the role?
7. **To what extent** do the sexual depictions of teens on television contribute to the normalization of teen's sexual behavior in society, and could this be a contributor to teen pregnancy?
8. **How** does the over sexualization and more mature depiction of teens on television affect the way that people look at younger aged people in a sexual nature and normalize it?

Ornstein, "Fairy Tales and a Dose of Reality"

1. **To what extent** has the media altered our perception of older stories and myths, changing the messages they send or how we perceive that message?
2. **To what extent** do the ideas of fairy tales and "happily ever after" hurt people's marriages (do these "happily ever after" ideas surrounding marriages contribute to divorce)?
3. **How** can we as a society escape the lies that have been imposed on us as realities through various media forms in our pursuit to experience life in a more genuine way?
4. **To what extent** does reality television follow fairy tale narrative, and is it often closely or loosely based on fairy tales
5. **How** has TV and general media changed marriage and love in general?
6. **To what extent** has modern-day society sugar coated the harsh and cruel reality of original fairy tales, and why has it been done?
7. **How** do the stereotypes in a marriage balance represented in modern day disney movies or reality TV portray unrealistic expectations to younger generations when it comes to love, and how damaging is this?
8. **To what extent** should we still be looking at the modern versions of fairy tales for their positive portrayals even when the past versions are so negative?

Unit 2: Critique

Belic, *Happy* (documentary film)

1. **How** has trying to follow society's norm that happiness is created by money, social status, etc. cause more harm than good to our happiness level?
2. **How** do we perceive others' happiness and how much does that influence our own levels of happiness?
3. **How** do economic systems affect happiness of their populations and **to what extent** has the focus on capital or economic growth affected general happiness?
4. **To what extent** does modern consumer culture distort people's understanding of happiness compared to the deeper sources of happiness found in community and purpose?
5. **To what extent** are actions able to generate happiness during unfortunate events or traumatic scenarios where the circumstances work against the state of happiness?
6. **To what extent** have we thwarted happiness to be more similar to a tangible item, such as money or a house, than an intangible emotion?
7. **How** does the culture of modern America contribute to the materialistic ways of thinking when pursuing happiness and further lead to a sense of constant unfulfillment?
8. **To what extent** does a nation's economy and social system effect general happiness in its population

Kingwell, "In Pursuit of Happiness"

1. **To what extent** does the constant search for the exact way to achieve happiness lead to a spiral away from happiness and towards disappointment.
2. **To what extent** is the pursuit of happiness dependent on privilege and access to resources rather than personal effort?
3. **To what extent** does the use of biological definitions to psychological aspects of the mind inhibit further growth within the study of the psychological mind?
4. **To what extent** does the modern American pursuit of happiness contribute to the issue of consumerism?
5. **Why** do we as humans try to replicate other's versions of happiness in our lives instead of creating our own versions?
6. **How** can we as humans escape the continuous circle of pursuing a version of happiness incompatible with our own lives and our relative capacity of happiness?
7. contentment, and in what ways can we reverse the cycle?

Preston, “The Dalai Lama’s Ski Trip: What I Learned in the Slush with His Holiness”

1. To what extent does a person’s fear of the unknown keep them from setting goals that embrace living in the moment?
2. **To what extent** do we pursue the meaning behind the human goals we have rather than making progress towards those goals?
3. To what extent does one’s religion contribute to their instinctive reactions to new events, situations, or ideas they are faced with?
4. **Why** is it in our nature to search for the unattainable and to try and explain the unexplainable, especially when it comes to something as broad and as important as happiness.
5. **How** can we channel our joy and excitement through learning to be content with ourselves and accomplishments, rather than relying on external factors to contribute to our happiness?
6. **Why** do we as human beings have trouble finding joy and happiness in the small everyday activities we participate in?
7. **To what extent** does learning another culture’s ways of being happy affect other emotions, such as sadness, anger, fear, etc,?
8. **To what extent do** humans blame others for their own mistakes instead of learning from the situation and taking responsibility to affect human happiness?

Oxford, “High Performance Happy”

1. **To what extent** do our interpersonal relationships and desire to uphold others’ sense of accomplishment within our community allow us to feel more comfortable with mediocrity?
2. To what extent do circumstances and predispositions contribute to one’s ability to self-motivate, or their inherent motivation towards a goal?
3. **To what extent** does teamwork work with overall productivity?
4. **To what extent** is human connection a contingent part of a successful and productive society?
5. How does a company having respect for their employees and allowing them to take on responsibility contribute to a productive company?
6. To what extent does success in the workplace affect one’s happiness outside of work?
7. To what extent does one negative person/action have an affect on those around us?
8. **How** can our emotional state in one part of our life have an impact on our attitude in other parts of our lives?

Unit 3: Comparative Critique

Csikszentmihalyi, "Finding Flow"

1. To what extent does hyper self-awareness inhibit one's ability to live in the moment; furthermore, does hyper self-awareness cause increased states of anxiety?
2. To what extent is "flow" a productive activity, could these actions really just be "going through the motions"?
3. To what extent do people subconsciously pursue personal flow activities over other productive activities without realizing the reason behind why?
4. To what extent does finding an emotional outlet benefit one's self?
5. Why do humans tend to fail to understand concepts of what they are doing at the moment of doing them?
6. To what extent do we as humans experience flow and not even realize it or understand that we are experiencing it?
7. To what extent does flow blur the line between work and play, and what does that reveal about what makes life worth living?
8. How does the knowledge that "nothing lasts forever" affect our motivation to discover our flow?

Brooks, "What Suffering Does"

1. To what extent can suffering produce trauma responses that inhibit the potential for growth and reflection, and instead cause mental delusion?
2. To what extent do humans purposefully forget moments of suffering instead of remembering them and learning from them?
3. To what extent does human suffrage allow one to become more empathetic and caring?
4. How was suffering accepted in ancient civilizations in comparison with its limited acceptance today?
5. To what extent does the "silver lining" within our suffering cause us to disregard the extent of which the struggles actually impact us?
6. To what extent does finding moments of happiness after struggling impede the natural growth suffering can cause?
7. To what extent can suffering produce growth, rather than simply breaking people down?
8. To what extent do coping mechanisms affect or inhibit the way in which we grow from suffering?

Begley, "Happiness: Enough Already"

1. To what extent does attachment theory explain a person's ability to find contentment, resilience, and productive coping mechanisms to life?
2. To what extent has the desire for creation of items that "simplify" the daily experience of life impacted the need for increased happiness in the eyes of modern society?
3. To what extent does the media and society have an effect on the average person's ability to decipher the line between normal emotions and diagnosable conditions?
4. To what extent is focusing on emotions truly productive, is it possible that focusing on our emotions instead of a task at hand could lead us to have a clouded thinking process?
5. Why do humans struggle at times to allow two seemingly contradicting things or qualities exist in unison, and potentially both be beneficial to our lives?
6. To what extent is it acceptable for society to dramatize one's sadness as a disease without indirectly causing more harm to that person?
7. To what extent has happiness in today's society been labeled more of a disease rather than a normal human emotion that is necessary for individual growth?
8. To what extent does the constant pursuit of happiness prevent people from experiencing genuine emotional balance or authenticity?