

Invention Activity

Step 0: Review

How has the class prepared us to think about evolving stories? Some examples:

- Adichie: “Single Story”
- Sontag: narratives about TB and cancer
- Lennard Davis: narratives about normality and disability
- Ian Hacking: identity and categories

Step 1: Brainstorming Topics

Work with your group to compile a **list** of 80-100 topics that would be good for this research project. In this case, “good” means interesting to you and related to the content and discussions of the Narrative Medicine topic section.

Group	Topic Ideas

Step 2: Thinking About Topics on Your Own

Now **make your own copy** of this document—you'll submit it as the homework for 10/30.

On your own, look over the list your group created. Choose two or three potential topics and **freewrite** about each of them for four or five minutes. Remember: one rule of freewriting is not to stop even if you feel that you have nothing to say.

Step 3: Taking Stock

Now, work with the results of your freewriting. **In the left column below, write everything you know about your topic. In the right column, write everything you would like to find out.** Consider both what is interesting to you and what will be interesting to your future readers. Repeat this process for all the free writes. In examining your existing knowledge, remember to include not only facts, but also personal experiences, stories, experiences of other people, and so on. Later on, you can include these into your draft to engage your readers.

	What I Know (can be from personal experiences, stories, experiences of other people, and so on)	What I Want to Find Out
Topic Idea 1		
Topic Idea 2		
Topic Idea 3		

Step 4: Posing Research Questions

You have made a list of everything you know about your potential subjects and a list of what you would like to know. But every research project begins with a **series of research questions**. After you have completed the preparatory work described in this activity so far, you should be well prepared to begin asking research questions of your own.

Read through the lists you have made in the left and right columns. Try to ask questions about your topic. You may begin by using the journalistic pentad “What, Who, Where, Why, or When.” Remember to ask the questions that genuinely interest you because these are the questions you will work with during

the project. Aim to have at least **five or six questions** at this early stage of the project. These initial questions will guide you through the first round of research.