JUMPSTART YOUR OVERVIEW
- My interest in _____ stems from…
- The question my dissertation answers is…the answer I provide is…

- My scholarship establishes…
- My project complicates the notion of _____ by showing that…
- What's unique about my project is…
- My work breaks away from the current trend of x by rethinking y. In doing so, it reveals that…
- In studying x, I've uncovered the idea/fact that…
- Along with the current scholarship grappling with x, my work addresses the matter of…
- What's at stake in my research is…

WHICH QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT TO ANSWER?
1. Define your area of study to a non-expert. What do you write about? Why should anyone care about it? Use simple, clear language.
2. What's the edgiest aspect of your scholarship?
3. Define your scholarly niche. Feel free to start with traditional discipline labels, then go past them. In other words, use existing labels first ("historian," "sociologist,"). Then create your own unique language to identify your niche ("early Atlantic studies," "intersectionality scholar," etc).
4. Think about an entire program of study centered around your dissertation and your expertise ("X Studies"). What would you call it? What courses would such a program offer?
5. What's the biggest problem your dissertation takes on, or the biggest question it answers?
6. What are the current trends in your field or subfield, and how does your work fit into those trends–or depart from them?
7. Tell an R1 department in your field why they should hire you. What will you bring to this role that no one else could?
8. Tell a teaching college how your research would translate into a contribution to their department.
9. Explain your next research project to experts in your field. If you had all the funding and time in the world, what would you do next?
10. Describe an upper-level majors course or graduate-level course that you could teach that would make the most of your scholarly interests–in other words, restate your dissertation as a course proposal.