

Research Cycle Interview Guide

You name: _____

Person's name that you are interviewing: _____

Directions:

Follow these steps to schedule & document your interview:

1. **Schedule an interview:** Email a faculty member or researcher at KU to ask if they have 15 minutes where they could talk with you about their research for a class assignment. Or you could ask an instructor after class one day if they would be interested in doing this and set up an appointment.
2. **Prep for the interview:** Watch the video about the research cycle (<https://ugresearch.ku.edu/student/researchbytes/researchcycle>) & print off this interview guide & picture of the research cycle (last page of this document) to bring with you to the interview.
3. **Start the interview:** To start the interview, show the person you are interviewing the picture of the research cycle and explain that you are going to ask them a few questions about each step in the process to get an idea of what this cycle might look like using a concrete example.
4. **Take notes/ document answers:** Takes a few notes underneath each question while the person is talking, and fill in with more details as soon as you get done with the interview.

Questions:

1. Can you tell me in 2-3 sentences what your most recent research project is about?

Step 1: Developing a topic/research question

2. How did you (or your research group) get interested in this particular research question/topic? What led to this being your focus?

Step 2: Understanding scholarly conversation

3. What have other scholars said about this topic? How might your research contribute to the scholarly conversation?

Step 3: Conducting primary research

4. What does doing primary research look like in your area of research? (for example, doing experiments, interviewing people, closely reading texts). What is the “evidence” that you collect as part of your research?

Step 4: Analyzing Results

5. How do you draw conclusions from your evidence? What does the process of analyzing your results look like?

The Research Cycle

