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Section 33

Anyone Can Research

Research is defined by my Honors First Year Seminar Class as “anything done with a purpose to learn”. I think that this broad definition of research really gives people the freedom to do research on anything that they would like. In order to conduct research, you must follow certain protocols that everyone conducting research does. I think that having these guidelines helps to ensure that everyone can understand others research. In this paper, I will discuss what research is and how I will continue to build my research competency in the future.

As I said before, research was defined by my class as “anything done with a purpose”. Research is a very important in order to continue to learn new things. The more research people do, the more knowledge we gain about new things, whether these things are big or small discoveries, they are all important. Researchers have certain obligations according to the writers of “On Being a Scientist,” Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (U.S). The first obligation is “researchers have an obligation to honor the trust that their colleagues place in them”. This obligation means that the researchers need to be accurate in their research because other researchers may base their own research off of others work and if the research isn’t accurate, their research will be inaccurate as well. The second obligation is “researchers have an obligation to themselves,” meaning they need to do accurate research for their own good, so that they may reach their own goals. Finally, “researchers have an obligation to act in ways that serve the public”. In order to do this, researchers must conduct research that will benefit people and their well-being.

All research also includes a hypothesis/question, a test, an analysis, background information, and a report or dissemination. A hypothesis is a statement about what a researcher thinks will happen in their research based on previous knowledge. Next, a researcher needs to actually do the test and/or research. Then, they analyze the information that they gather and figure out what that information means as far as their research. After this, they need to look at or recall background information/studies that have already been done on similar things. Using this information, they come up with a conclusion and report it. Reporting or disseminating their research is an important part of research because this way other researchers can use the information that they found to conduct their own research.

In the future, I hope to build my research competency by doing my undergraduate research. In order to reach this goal, I have to take some smaller steps. First, I have to start to look for and find a mentor to conduct my research with. I plan to find a mentor by taking classes and seeing which professor I would like to work with. Once I find a professor I want to work with I am going to ask them if they have any projects that I would be able to help with and if they say yes, I will hopefully get started. I am hoping I can start my research as soon as my junior year starts. Lastly, when the research is over I hope to write about and reflect on the research that I did. Also in order to build my research competency I am going to do smaller research projects. These smaller projects could include something like a research paper and/or speech.

Research is something that anyone can do and I think that, that is an important thing to know. This world needs as much research as possible because research is the way we learn new things and expand our minds more. Also, research is important because it can be built on, so your research could help someone else’s research in the future. I hope to continue to build my research competency by doing both small and large research projects throughout my time here at Minnesota State University Mankato.

Works Cited

Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (U.S.). On being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research. National Academies Press, Washington, D.C, 2009.