# Module 3 Dropbox Assignment:  Research Topic Exploration

The Research Topic Exploration Assignment will help you think about your previous and current academic classes and how the course topics connect across disciplines.  You will also brainstorm a possible research problem for your PRST 4995 Culminating Project research paper.

Remember that Dropbox assignments should conform to the following requirements:

* Microsoft Word or compatible format
* One-inch margins
* One of the following 12-point fonts: Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri
* Double-spaced text
* APA-formatted header, page numbers, and in-text citations for all outside sources
* Formal tone and style appropriate for [Academic Writing](https://elearn.mtsu.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=8413057&type=content&rcode=TBR-37438473)

## Research Topic Investigation Assignment Requirements

### 1. APA Title Page

Include your name, class name with section number, professor name, date, and assignment name.

### 2. Organize and Describe Previous Academic Coursework:

Using your Registration History, Unofficial Transcript in PipelineMT, and/or the Upper Division Form you developed in consultation with your advisor, organize the coursework you have taken by academic discipline using only 2000-, 3000-, or 4000-level courses (consult Chapter 5 of the textbook for a taxonomy of disciplines). Remember to review coursework from all institutions attended, including MTSU.

Create a heading for the two disciplines with the most coursework and include a description for each course you have taken related to each discipline, including the Course ID, Title, and knowledge and skills gained. Do not copy course descriptions from the academic catalog or the syllabus. You should describe what you learned in your own words.

### Discipline 1 Name

* Course 1: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 2: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 3: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 4: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 5: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*

### Discipline 2 Name

* Course 1: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 2: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 3: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 4: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*
* Course 5: Course ID, Title, and description of knowledge and skills gained from the course\*

### 3. Frame Your Two Primary Academic Disciplines

In question 2, you organized your primary coursework into two academic disciplines. Next, you will frame these disciplines using the information in Chapter 5. Answer the following questions in your own words for each of the two disciplines (do not copy information directly from the textbook):

### Discipline 1 Name

* To which category does the discipline belong?
* What is the discipline's overall perspective?
* What phenomena does the discipline study?
* What are the discipline's assumptions?

### Discipline 2 Name

* To which category does the discipline belong?
* What is the discipline's overall perspective?
* What phenomena does the discipline study?
* What are the discipline's assumptions?

### 4. Brainstorm One Potential Research Question

Think about the topics you have discussed in previous courses, current events, or issues of personal importance that are related to your previous academic experiences. Answer each of the following questions in complete sentences:

* What research question related to your previous coursework would you like to research?
* Which of your previous academic disciplines is related to this research question and why?
* In addition to the academic discipline you described in question 2 above, what are two other academic disciplines that would be potentially relevant to this research question and why? Use and cite information from the descriptions of academic disciplines in Chapter 5 to support your answer.
* Why do you believe this research question is complex? Use and cite information from Chapter 6 to support your answer.

### 5. Reflection

In 1-2 paragraphs, reflect on what you have learned in Module 3.

* Which of the concepts in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 challenged you the most?
* Which concept do you feel you understand best?
* In addition to the research question you brainstormed in question 4, what is one additional research question you might be interested in investigating and why?

### 6. Reference Page

Provide an APA-formatted reference page for all sources cited in the assignment (including the textbook if used to paraphrase or quote responses to assignment questions).