Workshop: Demystifying Research

Objectives	Resources
1. Understand how broad "research" is, and how research can exist in every discipline 2. Gain the confidence to involve yourself in research if you want to 3. Learn the basic steps of how to email a professor to learn more about their research and potentially get involved	• MedLaunch Database • Getting Started in Research Overview from Northwestern's Office of Undergraduate Research

Activities	

Warm-up	1. Students will start off with an activity to start talking about where their curiosities and interests lie. Examples include:
	    a. If you could know the answer to any unsolved question or mystery, what would it be?
	    b. Would you rather know everything that happened in the past or everything that will happen in the future?

Defining Research	1. Provide a definition:
	    a. A careful and detailed study of a specific topic
	2. Explain a few objectives:
	    a. Understand issues and increase awareness
	    b. Discover new knowledge or develop new understandings of existing knowledge
	    c. Solve problems
	    d. Inform actions/next steps
	3. Discuss a few examples of research to highlight how it can exist in every field (not just STEM!)
	    a. Benchwork
	    b. Reading literary work
	        i. Feedly
	    c. Conducting interviews
	4. Explain the Scientific Method

Walk through some interesting research papers	1. Highlight breadth of the research field and how fun it can be 2. Examples:

	a. [Analysis of Superman vs. Nick O'Teen in Anti-smoking Campaigns in 1980s Britain](#) b. [Evaluating pizza topping quantity and distribution using computer vision](#)

Getting Involved in Research	1. Highlight that you don't need experience! Professors will train you on your specific task and make sure you're on the right track
	2. Ways to get involved
	    a. Networking
	    b. Cold emailing
	    c. Research programs
	        i. Use our database https://launch.theprojectmed.org/
	    d. Independent research
	3. Structuring your emails
	    a. Introduce yourself and your background
	    b. Talk about why you're interested in their research specifically
	        i. Tailor this part to every email
	    c. Ask to set up a meeting to learn more!

Evaluation	Reflection
1. Give students 5-10 minutes to surf the database and other websites for professors and research that interest them	1. If you could conduct research on any topic, what would it be? 2. Do you see yourself doing research in the future? Why or why not?