

## ASSIGNMENT 5: WORKING INSIDE-OUT on QUESTIONS THAT INTEREST YOU MOST

In Assignment 1, you were asked to list 25 possible topics for research you found interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc. Now, you need to begin phrasing your interest/enjoyment/dislike in terms of a possible research questions.

For this assignment you are to pick 5 topics you listed as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc., and then develop 3 different sorts of questions you might ask of each topic, for a total of 15 questions overall. Here are some keywords to help you formulate questions:

- aesthetics
- privacy
- consumption
- race
- teaching
- history
- shame
- communication
- fairness
- truth
- access
- social capital
- learning
- community
- time
- imagination
- democracy
- reality
- gender
- identity
- audiences
- authenticity
- transgression
- ethics
- publicity
- ownership
- age
- embodiment
- memory
- uncertainty
- hybridity
- safety

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE: let's say that in Assignment 1, you mentioned that you are attracted to/repulsed by the slasher films as a genre. Questions that might come up include:

- "Are explicitly graphic films like this bigger money makers than other sorts of films?" (PRODUCTION INQUIRY)

- “What connections can we make between the bodily experience of shock and the aesthetic experience of entertainment?” (PHENOMENOLOGICAL INQUIRY, AESTHETIC INQUIRY)
- “To what degree do films like this teach potential murderers how to operate?” (EDUCATIONAL INQUIRY, ETHICAL INQUIRY)
- “What might the differences in shock films from country X and country Y tell us about cultural differences in those communities? (COMMUNITY INQUIRY)

Now, using your list of interests from Assignment 1, write your questions here:

1. First topic that I noted as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc.:

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a. First question I have

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b. Second question I have

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c. Third question I have

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2. Second topic that I noted as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc.:

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a. First question I have

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b. Second question I have

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c. Third question I have

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3. Third topic that I noted as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc.:

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a. First question I have

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b. Second question I have

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c. Third question I have

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4. Fourth topic that I noted as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc.:

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a. First question I have

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b. Second question I have

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c. Third question I have

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5. Fifth topic that I noted as interesting/enjoyable/upsetting/controversial/etc.:

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a. First question I have

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b. Second question I have

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c. Third question I have

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As you write your questions, try to note which keywords/concerns keep coming up again and again, and which you tend to 'back burner' (for instance, a continual interest in questions of privacy, but no real interest in theories of social capital, or race...)