

# *ECF Sophomore Seminar Assignment: Portrait of a Researcher*

## **Introduction & Motivation:**

Research is the systematic search for new information guided by professional standards. By the time you graduate from this fellows program, you will have completed a large-scale research project in your field. One of the main goals of this course is to help you develop your ideas about research, your field, and your place in it.

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**Genre:** Reflection

**Audience:** Yourself, primarily, and other ECF sophomores secondarily

**Purpose:** To consider one's view of "researcher" and how well that moniker aligns with one's view of self, goals, and developmental trajectory.

**Length:** 1-3 pages, single spaced

## **Process:**

1. Read the questions, capturing your initial reactions and thoughts in notes for each question as you go.
2. Refine your notes into coherent paragraphs.
3. Look across your responses, particularly noting places of alignment or disconnection, noting them as bullet points in response to #8.
4. Provide a final reflection (#9) on what you learned about yourself as a researcher from doing this assignment.

## **Questions to Answer:**

1. What is a researcher? What does a researcher look like? What do they do with their time?
2. What specific skills or abilities does a good researcher have?
3. Who are you? What is your identity or identities?
4. Are you a researcher? Why or why not?
5. How do you think your identities and experiences influence the way you look at research?
6. Do you have any of the skills or abilities you identified in #3? If there are some you do not have, do you want them? Why or why not? If you do, how will you get them?
7. How do you think your identities and experiences influence your own definition of yourself as a researcher?
8. Identify points of connection *and* points of disconnection across your responses to 1-7.
9. Provide a final reflection on what you learned about yourself as a researcher from doing this assignment.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- Does the writing address each of the questions?
- Does the writing answer the questions thoughtfully and completely, or simply describe events without attempting to tell “why”?
- Does the writing meet the length requirement and demonstrate polished prose?

Developed by: Shannon Duvall (Computer Science), Kim Epting (Psychology), and Megan Isaac (English)