

Research planning workshop – Energy Systems, fall 2004 week 2 - EJZ

We have discussed several candidate research areas in class. The goal of this workshop is to help you start to **articulate some questions about topics of interest** to you. Then you will go to the library and start to investigate your topics and refine your questions.

Name: _____

0. Discuss your possible research interests with a classmate (not necessarily a research teammate) for 3-5 minutes, listen to them for 3-5 minutes, then list your three top research interests below.

1. For your **favorite research topic**, discuss with a classmate (for 5 minutes) some questions you might want to investigate. Try to think of questions that you might actually be able to experiment on or calculate about. Listen to your classmate for 5 minutes. Restate your **research interest**:

Then list your few **best candidate research questions** below.

A. _____ ?

B. _____ ?

C. _____ ?

Which of these questions could you most readily investigate, with experiments, measurements, and/or calculations?

2. For an **alternate research topic**, discuss with a classmate (for 5 minutes) some questions you might want to investigate. Try to think of questions that you might actually be able to experiment on or calculate about. Listen to your classmate for 5 minutes. Restate your **research interest**:

Then list your few **best candidate research questions** below.

A. _____ ?

B. _____ ?

C. _____ ?

Which of these questions could you most readily investigate, with experiments, measurements, and/or calculations?

3. Of your two possible research areas, for which have you generated the most fruitful questions?

4. Next, we will go to the **Library**. **Your assignment** is to further investigate your **best research topic**, and **find some more candidate questions** that you might be able to investigate. You do not need to choose between these questions yet – just find a number of good candidates. If you have time, you may research questions about your second topic as well.

Summarize your research area(s) and questions, and **post them to WebX this Friday**. You can copy and edit this document from our program webpage if you like, and paste it as an attachment to WebX.

5. In the next few weeks, you will focus in on one research area and develop good, specific questions about it, with at least three testable hypotheses.