A LA CARTE

Mason Libraries' Teaching & Learning Team helps new and transfer students build their research skills and connect with the University Libraries on campus and online. In addition to classroom instruction, the team offers a variety of learning opportunities to support your success at Mason.

APPETIZERS

Library Basics — 30 minutes

Students are invited to join a discussion about the services that are available to them through University Libraries.

Virtual Scavenger Hunt — 30 minutes

Students are challenged to find various sources on the library website.

BITE-SIZED LESSONS

Creating Research Questions — 20 minutes

Students participate in a group discussion about research question criteria. Students practice developing research questions by one or more of the following methods:
- *Developing a research question from a video or text prompt in small groups*
- *Revising underdeveloped research questions as a small group or whole class*
- *Drafting research questions from their own topics and participate in think/pair/share*

Research Topic Development — 20 minutes

Students brainstorm keywords on a grid or concept map related to their general research topics. Using the think/pair/share method, students are supported by their peers to develop their topics. Library instructor circulates to provide additional guidance.

Citation Mining — 30 minutes

Students participate in group discussion about citation mining methods. Using their own research topics, students find a seed source and apply the following methods:
- *Bibliography/backwards citation mining*
- *Forward citation mining*
- *Related citation mining*

Place orders at
https://library.gmu.edu/instruction/request

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Finding Sources   60 minutes

Students are given a research topic or real world problem scenario. The library instructor provides guidance on database selection and students work in groups to find appropriate research related to their topic/problem scenario. Students report out their findings.

Source Evaluation   45 minutes

Students participate in a group discussion about criteria for source selection. Library instructor provides additional guidance using one of the following methods:
- *CRAAP*
- *RADAR*
- *IF I APPLY*

Students evaluate a source in groups and report out their findings.

Zotero   60 minutes

Students learn how to use the free, open source bibliographic management tool, Zotero. This tool allows users to store, share, and cite sources as well as format a bibliography in any citation style. Instruction includes group discussion on research ethics and the importance of citations. **Students must have their own laptops.**

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Information Cycle   45 minutes

Students are challenged to put various source types of a similar theme in chronological order (dates have been redacted). A group discussion follows that focuses on information dissemination, genre, the utility of different source types, audience, etc.*

*Available themes include anti-vaxxers, overfishing, Ferguson shooting, Opioid Crisis, etc.