**Lesson Plan: Pass the Research Question**

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| **Activity Description** | **Resources** | **Time** |
| Summary:Pass the Research Question provides time for students to brainstorm keywords related to their research topic and subtopics. It also encourages students to explore their peers’ research topics by suggesting additional keywords and questions related to their research. Learning Outcomes: * Students will develop a comprehensive list of keywords for their research topics.
* Students will discover new possible research paths.

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy:This activity connects with the frames “Research as Inquiry” and “Searching as Strategic Exploration.”Instructions: 1. Ask students to write their research topics or questions at the top of the Pass the Research Question worksheet. Then ask them to write three related subtopics they’re interested in exploring in their research.
2. Next, ask students to spend two minutes writing keywords, synonyms and related terms for their topic and subtopics.
3. Tell students to pass their papers to the person next to them.
4. Put one minute on the clock and ask students to add their keyword ideas to the other students’ worksheets. Encourage students to also write down questions they have about each other’s topics. Explain that these questions may contain additional keyword ideas.
5. Ask students to pass their papers two more times and take one minute to write the suggestions and questions during each pass.
6. Tell students to return their worksheets to the original owner. Put two minutes on the clock for students to read over their classmates’ questions and keyword suggestions.

 Extension Activity (if time permits):1. Ask for two volunteers to share what they learned about their topic from doing this exercise.
2. Ask students to come up with a few different combinations of 2-3 keywords they will use in their initial database searching.
 | Required Materials:Students need a research question and a copy of the Pass the Research Question worksheet.* This activity could also be completed on scrap paper.

Prep:Print out 19 copies of the Pass the Research Question worksheet. | **6 minutes** |