Student Interview/Focus Group Questions (Semi-Structured)

Demographics

- What year in school are you?
- What is your major/Have you declared a major?

Research Projects

- Have you worked on a research paper, presentation, or project this semester? Or in the past year? (Probe for specifics, e.g. If not in the last year, when was the last time you worked on a research paper, presentation, or project?)
- Tell me (more) about the last research paper or project you worked on.
- What challenges or obstacles did you encounter while working on this assignment? (Probe for specifics, e.g. finding good books and articles, time management issues, in judging the appropriateness of sources, etc.).
- How would you compare your research assignments in high school with those you've had at the college-level?

Student Research Process

- Did you search online? Did you use print materials (from the library, from class)? How did you choose what you used as evidence in your papers/projects?
- How did you know you had enough sources of information/had gathered enough information from various sources to fulfill your needs and/or successfully complete your research project?
- How did you know when you had the right kind of sources? Probe for specifics, e.g. what choices were made in determining the “right kind”? (How did you judge relevance to your project? Credibility of the source? )
- Where do you tend to do your research (from dorm room, in the library)? (Probe for specifics, e.g. Why? What about that place makes it optimal for you? If not the library, why not?)

Seeking Help

- Did you ask anyone for help (writing tutor, professor, librarian, friend, peer advisor)? Who did you ask and why did you choose that person(s)?
- At what point did you decide to seek help? (Before you started your research? After a few frustrating hours? After a few days? In the last hours?)

- How do you see librarians and the library playing a part in your academic success? Why or why would you not seek help from a librarian?

**Library Instruction**

- Did your first year seminar meet with a librarian during the semester? How often?

- Did you use any online learning tools related to library research and/or information literacy? (Subject or course research guides? “How do I...” responses? Chat reference? Etc.)

- *WB Alternative:* Did your WB class meet with a librarian? Would meeting with a librarian, learning more about the library's subject-specific resources enhanced your research process? Have you had classes in the past that included library instruction? If yes, tell us if and how this interaction with a librarian contributed to your academic work.