Lesson 1: Discovery & Investigation - Student Packet

Objective

Students will learn to actively engage with texts, ask critical questions, and begin exploring themes and topics for future writing.

Activity 1: Passive vs. Active Reading

Mini-Lesson (10 minutes): Explain the difference between passive and active reading.

- Passive reading = reading without questioning or interaction.

- Active reading = engaging with the text through annotation, asking questions, and connecting ideas.

Annotation Practice (20 minutes): Use "On Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Link: https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/16643

Instructions: Annotate the passage, marking important ideas, repetitions or patterns, and "Why/How" questions.

Worksheet 1: Active Reading Annotation Guide

Line/Excerpt	What Stands Out?	Why?	Questions (Why/How)

Activity 2: Research Scavenger Hunt

Instructions: Choose a general area of interest. Using Google Scholar or a school library database, locate:

1. A scholarly article

2. A news article

3. A website or blog

For each source, write the full citation, a 2–3 sentence summary, and one "Why/How" question.

Worksheet 2: Research Scavenger Hunt Tracker

Source Type	Citation	Summary (2–3 sentences)	Question
Scholarly			
News			
Blog/Web			

Class Discussion Prompt

What themes are emerging from the sources you found? Which ideas or topics sparked your interest the most—and why? Write down 2–3 emerging themes you might want to write about.

Homework Assignment

Find and annotate two sources:

- One Primary Source

- One Secondary Source

Instructions: Print (or screenshot) and annotate each. Mark the author's purpose, surprising facts, a personal connection, and one "Why" and one "How" question.

Worksheet 3: Source Annotation Reflection

Source Type	Title/Link	Notes/Observations	Personal Reaction

Suggested Public Domain Sources

Primary Sources:

- Frederick Douglass – “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

  https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/16117

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton – Declaration of Sentiments

  https://guides.loc.gov/primary-sources-women-vote/declaration

Secondary Sources (Open Access):

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

  https://plato.stanford.edu/

- Internet History Sourcebooks Project

  https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/