Research. What is it? Is it typing a question into Google? Is it pouring over books in the library, chugging Red Bull the night before your paper’s due? Is it peering into a microscope for hours upon hours until you finally find that connection you’re looking for? Research is a big concept, one that’s thrown around a lot within CHC, especially in areas like the Honors Thesis and the Undergraduate Research Conference. So what actually counts as research?

By the broadest definition, research is a discovery, investigation, and growing relationship with a certain subject. It can be about any subject, can employ any method, and can affect anyone. Sure, we’ve seen traditional research like Rebecca Spencer’s sleep studies and Wilmore Webley’s developing a cure for asthma. These are important examples, but we’ve also seen research in different forms at CHC, like Marina Simons’ investigation of children’s stories and Jed Winer’s award-winning film about cheetahs. What do all these research stories have in common? They’re all about passion, pursuing discoveries, and they all have the potential to enact change when their results and experiences are shared.

So, what counts as research? Anything you choose to pursue with your effort and dedication as an honors student. Since all research is important, we want to hear about your research. What are you passionate about? What are you discovering? What are your stories, your struggles, your hopes for the future, and your needs to make that future a reality? That’s what the #ResearchStory campaign is about.

Here’s how it works

1. Do something you think is awesome. This can be in any field, use any method, and can be in any stage of completion. Are you already halfway through your lab work for your honors thesis? Tell us
about it! Maybe you haven’t started yet, but you have a great idea. Share it with us! No ideas yet? Join the conversation anyway, maybe you can get inspired.

2. Follow @UMassCHC on Twitter.

3. Tweet us your #ResearchStory. Tell us about your passion in 140 characters or less. It’s tough, but you can add to the conversation as many times as you’d like. Tell us about all the developments in your journey.

For example, I’ve been developing my own research in the form of a multi-genre collection of narrative non-fiction pieces exploring my experiences playing video games. Here’s what my #ResearchStory might look like:

@UMassCHC memoir’s coming along well. All this writing about playing @Diablo with my dad makes me want to play some more #ResearchStory

@UMassCHC this Korean StarCraft documentary is harder to write than I thought. Looks like it’s back to the drawing board #ResearchStory

@UMassCHC oh no, still ten pages short of goal for final portfolio! Any gamers out there? What else should I include? #ResearchStory

What about you? What’s your #ResearchStory?

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