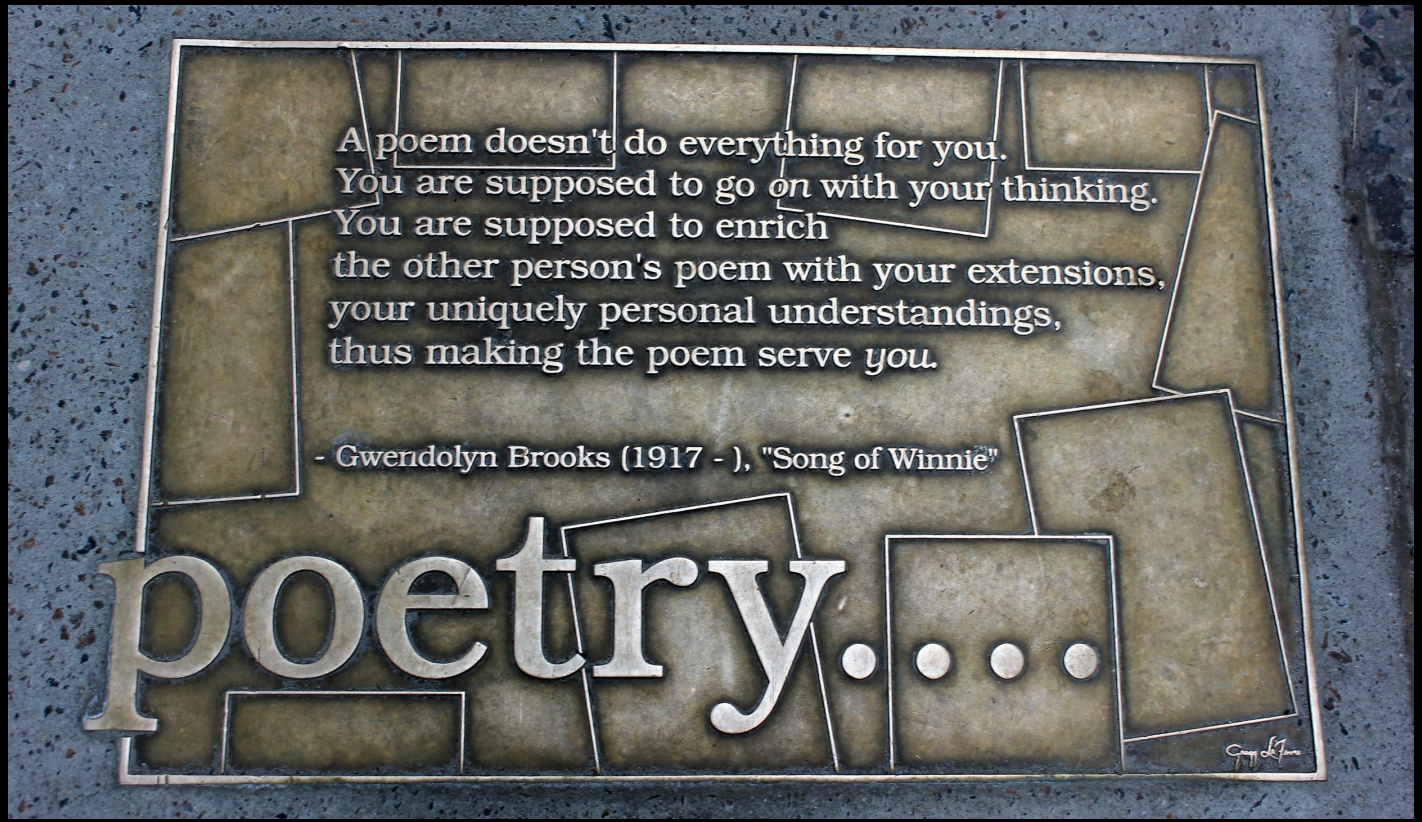
# Using Historical Context



# We Real Cool

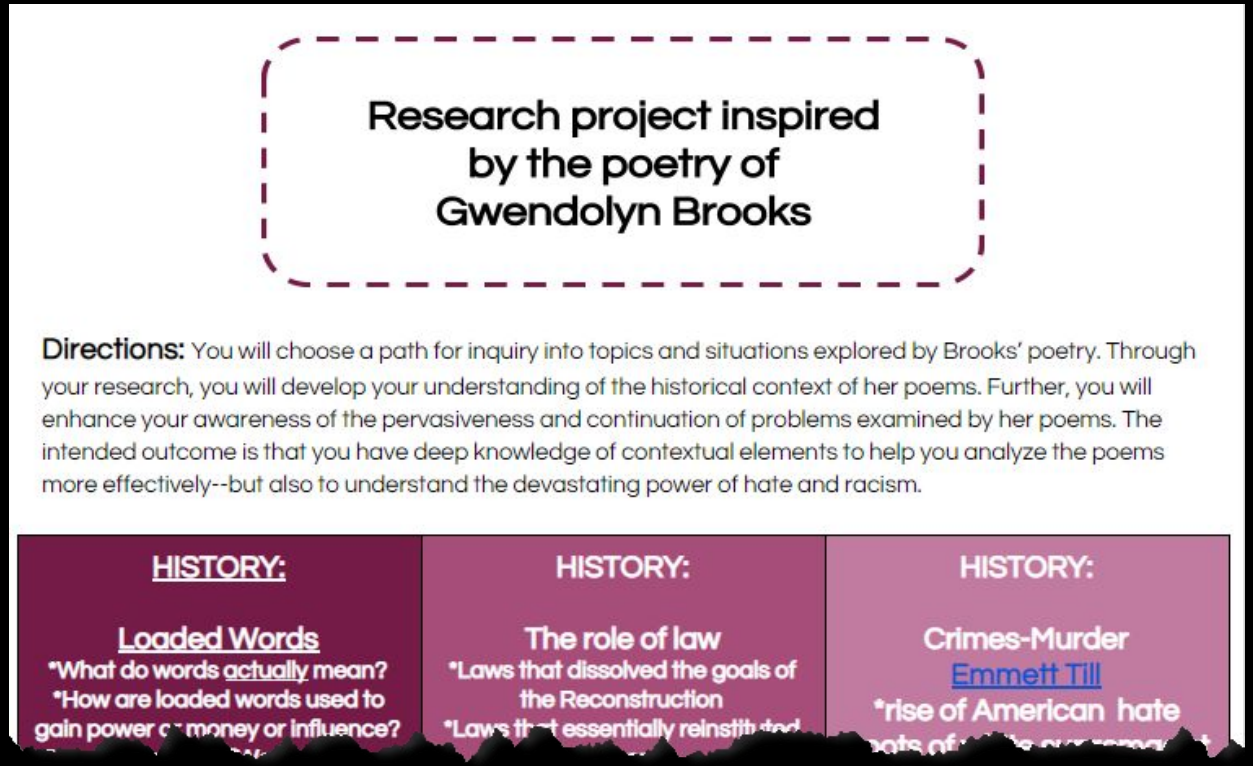
# Good Topics

Interesting
Personal
Manageable
Available
Worthwhile
Relevant

# Poor Topics

Too broad
Too narrow
Too trivial
Too subjective
Too technical
Too factual
Too new

# Starting with a Topic

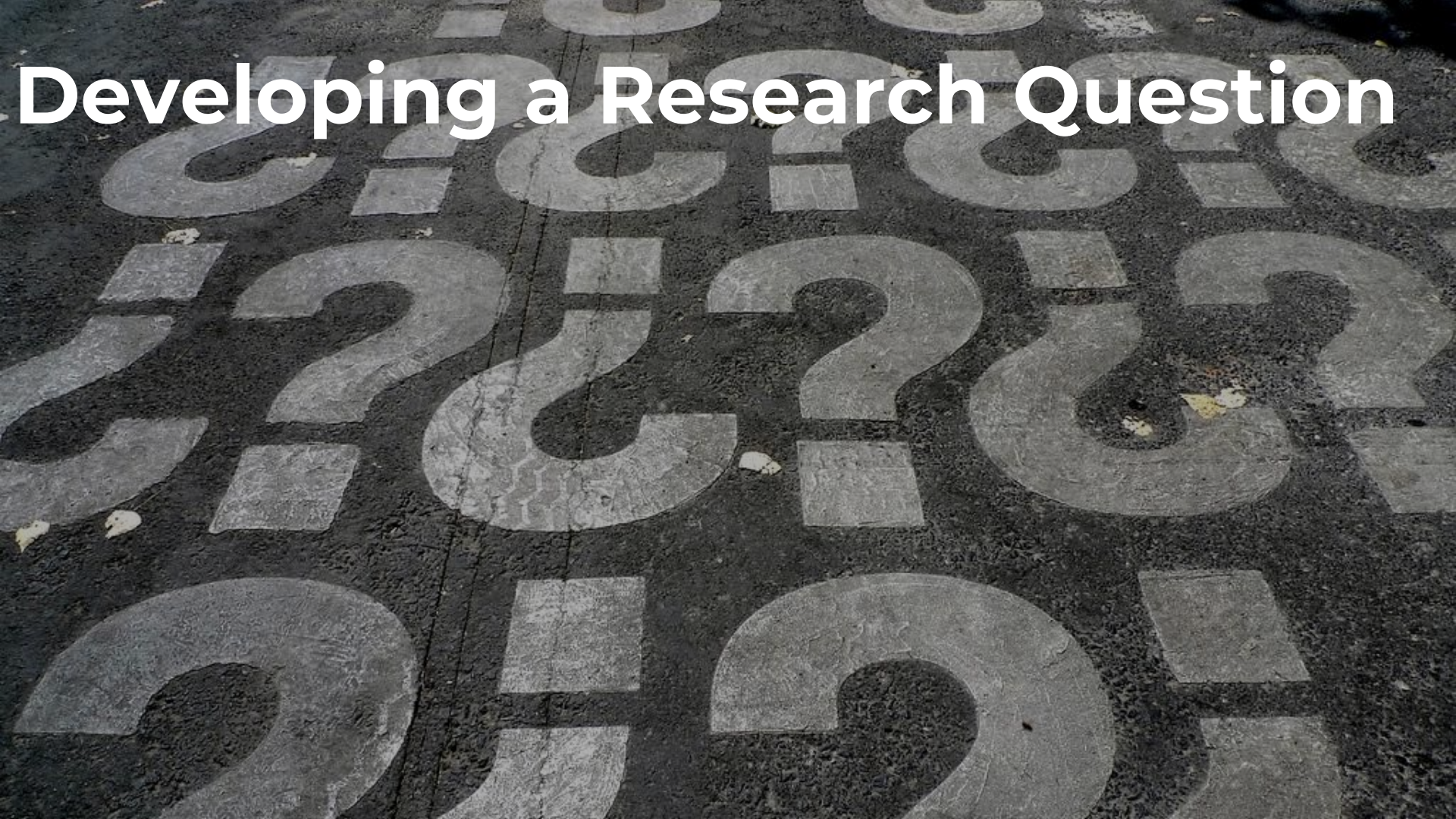


Research project inspired by the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks

**Directions:** You will choose a path for inquiry into topics and situations explored by Brooks' poetry. Through your research, you will develop your understanding of the historical context of her poems. Further, you will enhance your awareness of the pervasiveness and continuation of problems examined by her poems. The intended outcome is that you have deep knowledge of contextual elements to help you analyze the poems more effectively--but also to understand the devastating power of hate and racism.

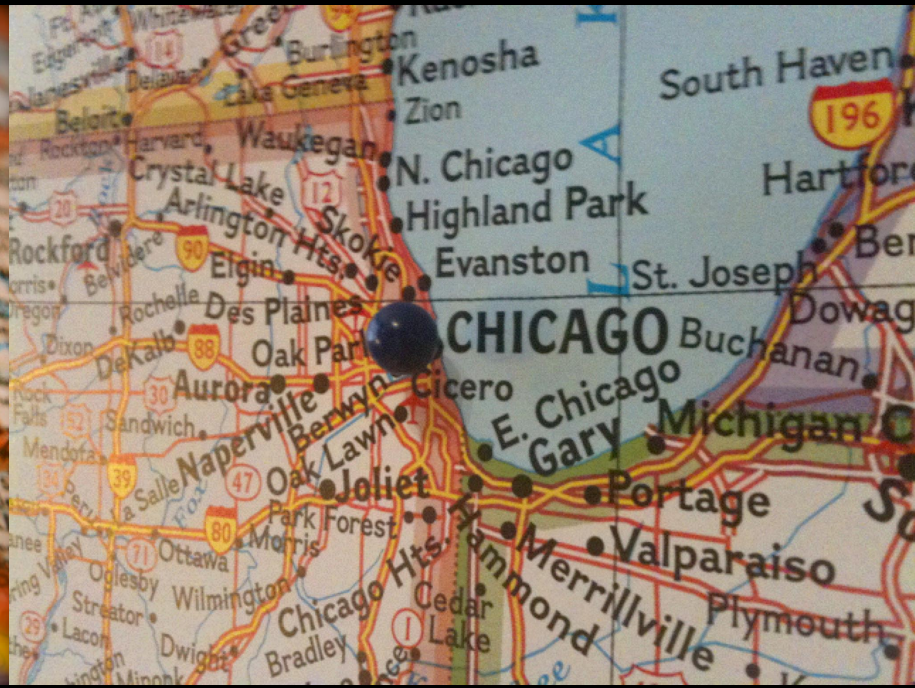
| HISTORY: | HISTORY: | HISTORY: |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Loaded Words<br>*What do words actually mean?<br>*How are loaded words used to gain power or money or influence? | The role of law<br>*Laws that dissolved the goals of the Reconstruction<br>*Laws that essentially reinstituted | Crimes-Murder<br>Emmett Till<br>*rise of American hate |

# Developing a Research Question



# Why do you need a research question?

# Specific enough to get started



# Flexible enough to change with you as you learn

# Deep enough to learn something

# Research Qs - Characteristics

Clear
Focused
Concise
Complex

Arguable
Relevant
Researchable
Flexible

# Examples

**Unclear:** Why are social networking sites harmful?

**Clear:** How are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on such social networking sites as SnapChat and Instagram?

# Examples

**Unfocused:** What is the effect on the environment from global warming?

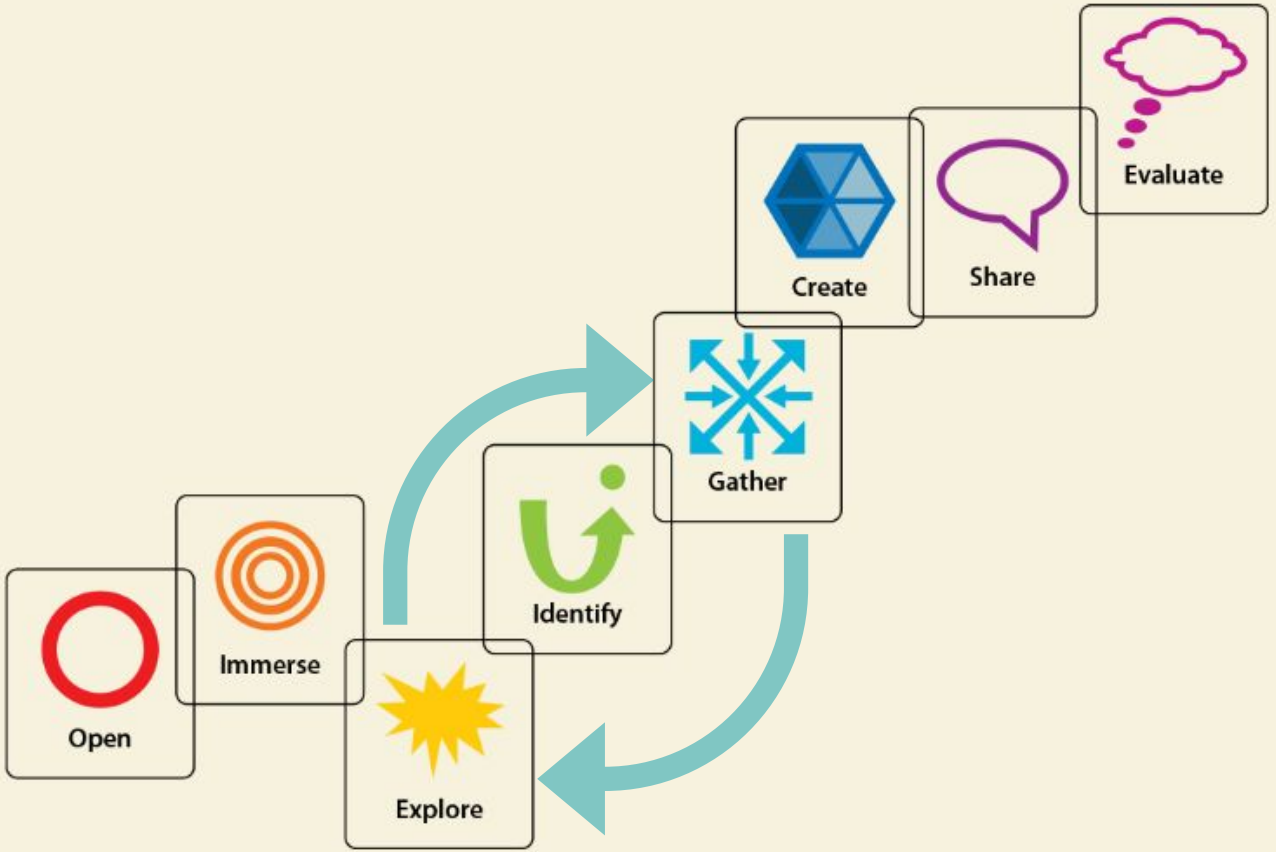
**Focused:** How is glacial melting affecting penguins in Antarctica?

# Examples

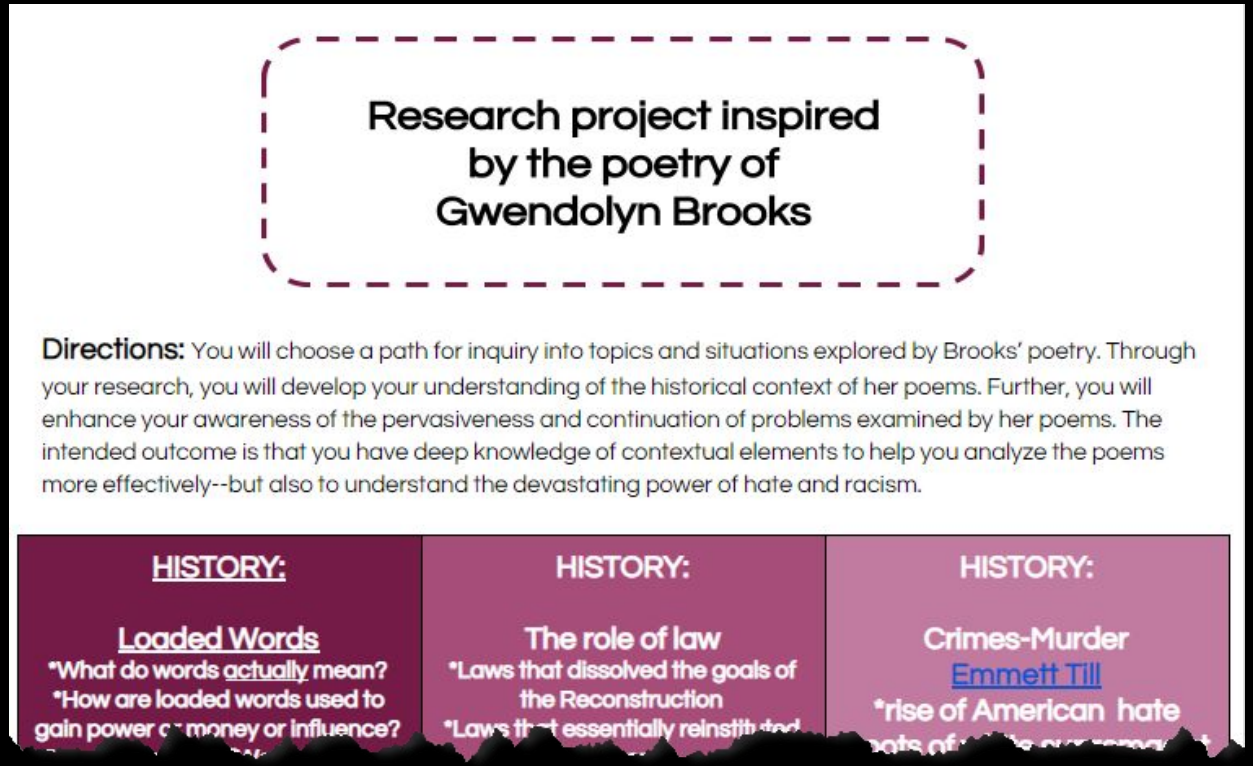
**Too simple:** How are doctors addressing diabetes in the U.S.?

**Appropriately complex:** What are common traits of those suffering from diabetes in America, and how can these commonalities be used to aid the medical community in the prevention of disease?

# Guided Inquiry Design® Framework



# Moving from Topic to Question



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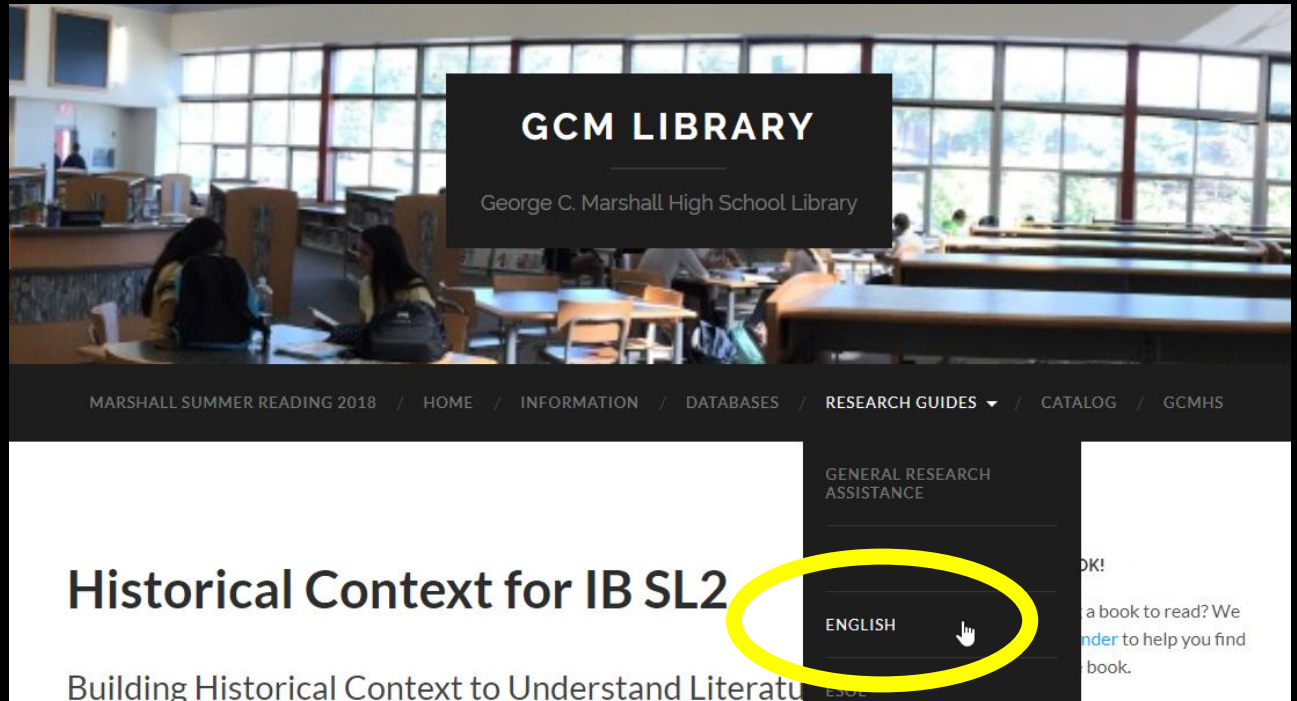
# Research

## www.gcmhslibrary.com



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