

Every section of ENGL1106—in keeping with what our curriculum at Virginia Tech promises—must introduce students in at least *two* of the following *six* research methods.

Method	Description
<p>Source work</p> 	<p><i>Source work</i> is perhaps the most traditional and recognizable emphasis in ENGL1106 in that it emphasizes searching, finding, reading, and annotating published materials (usually scholarly or journalistic) that lend evidence, support, or perspective to a research question. Source work extends to practices such as summary, paraphrase, and direct quotation, necessary for making the source appear in another's writing ethically and with credit. Formal citation applies here, as well, following APA or MLA, typically.</p>
<p>Memory work</p> 	<p><i>Memory work</i> includes personal recall, attention to history or cultural memory, emphases on artifacts or archives, and personal knowledge. It can be enriched by photographs, descriptive accounts, collecting stories.</p>
<p>Word work</p> 	<p><i>Word work</i> focuses on keywords or phrases, their etymologies and specific in-context usages, and the evolving valences of significance in well-defined situations. It is grounded in inquiry into everyday uses as well as definition and etymology informed by the OED.</p>
<p>Site work</p> 	<p><i>Site work</i> locates knowledge in the world and in participatory or observational interaction <i>in situ</i>, or in the environment in which it happens. It is an intentional, time-intensive method attendant to patterns and anomalies—a method that values detailed note-keeping and documentary aids, such as photographs, maps, sketches, and video or audio recordings.</p>
<p>Interview</p> 	<p><i>Interviews</i> take an interest in knowledge gained from interactions with another person. Considerations include recording techniques (handwritten versus audio recorded and transcribed), iterations (e.g., whether completed in one sitting or many), and the relationship between stable, planned questions and conversational response.</p>
<p>Data work</p> 	<p><i>Data work</i> engages a researchable question by finding or formulating data-sets, oftentimes through a collaboratively developed survey, which is then given to a class and/or another group. Data work considers challenges of representing data (e.g., in narrative, graphics, or tables) and salience of data (i.e., which kinds of responses are meaningful indicators suited to emphasis in a written account).</p>

### What do we mean by "research" in the context of ENGL1106 at Virginia Tech?

Research in ENGL1106 refers to inquiry, the curiosity-motivated activity of formulating questions, seeking insight into those questions, collecting and annotating resources, and enacting methods that widen the scope of possible responses to a gradually and increasingly focal question or problem. Throughout this research, we expect that perspectives may shift, and, as such, we accept as plausible the role of evolving claims across the semester and any given project within it.

For more information about the ENGL1106 curriculum, contact the Composition Program Leadership Team at [composition@vt.edu](mailto:composition@vt.edu) or by reach out to one of us listed at <http://www.hokieswrite.com/leadership-team/>