

## 8.1 Preliminary Research Activities

### **For Teachers:**

You may assign groups for this module or allow students to choose their groups. Students are dedicated to teamwork and collaboration for the rest of this module, so it is important to emphasize this point.

Groups begin with informal discussions, mind-mapping activities, preliminary database research, and information collecting. They will start to set up shared documentation of their resource list and short annotations to get a physical picture of the possible directions for group inquiry. These activities happen organically and are intertwined.

Students will begin a mind map, break off to read some preliminary research, reconvene with the map, etc., until they have a clear and narrow idea from which to begin to solidify the direction of their group inquiry. Once groups have a preliminary research question that is agreed upon by all group members, they will review their question using proper evaluation techniques, as explored in Module 4. Where issues arise in the evaluation, they continue preliminary research and work on revising their initial question.

You may have student groups submit mind maps or preliminary research notes and collected resources to use as checkpoints for the project and as accountability for progress.

### [Introduction](#)

Per the College Board Course and Exam Description Requirements for Task 1:

“Students work in teams of three to five to identify, investigate and analyze an academic or real-world problem or issue. Each team designs and/or considers options and evaluates alternatives; develops a multimedia presentation to present the argument for their proposed solution or resolution; and provides an oral defense to questions posed by the teacher.”

“In this project, three to five students collaborate as a team to identify a problem or issue (e.g., local, national, global, academic/theoretical/philosophical). Each team develops a team research question and conducts preliminary research. They identify approaches, perspectives, or lenses and divide responsibilities among themselves for the individual research that will address the team’s research question.”