Research is a Conversation Script
Hey have you walked into a party fashionably late
you show up and the conversation has already started
What's everybody talking about?
There are two types of people in this world
the uniformed loud mouth who jumps in without looking at multiple points of view
and just says whatever he thinks without considering the conversation that’s been going on
or the person who listens first, then questions and engages
research is a conversation and you are part of that conversation
as a student. But, it's important to note that this party has been going for quite awhile
long before you got here
As you begin your research, with a question or an idea in mind
you'll want to see what's being said
you need to catch up on the conversation in order to participate and add something new
These conversations are going on in the humanities
Architecture
Business
social sciences
and the sciences
In a conversation, first you listen
when doing research, first you read
by reading the work of scholars in your field
you're listening to the conversation and getting ready to ask your own questions
in a conversation you ask clarifying questions
when doing research you ask questions
and then see if you can find answers in previously published books and articles
in a conversation you engage and respond with your informed point of view
when doing research, interacting or joining the conversation might be you writing a paper
creating a poster
designing a study
making art
getting a patent
or just giving a presentation