**Assignment Title:** True or False—The Purpose of Research

**Goal:** The goal of this activity is to help students develop a broader understanding of the purpose of academic research assignments, by helping to identify some of the common misconceptions that they might have about research assignments. This could also be used as a low-stakes activity or assignment at the beginning of a research project to help clarify expectations.

**Framework Concept:**

* **Research as Inquiry**

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Consider research as open-ended exploration and engagement with information
* Value persistence, adaptability, and flexibility and recognize that ambiguity can benefit the research process
* Seek appropriate help when needed

**Assignment Description:**

1. Divide students into pairs or small groups.

2. Provide each pair or group with a list of statements related to the purpose or process of research. Examples include:

* The purpose of research is to compile information on a topic
* The purpose of research is to find a single, right answer to a question
* Scholars view research as an iterative process of inquiry
* As a college student, you should be able to complete a research assignment without assistance
* If you don’t find any sources that provide a clear, right answer to your research question, you should pick another topic
* A research question can be answered with a quick Google search
* You should be able to identify one clear, right answer to your research question

3. Have students review and discuss the statements amongst themselves.

4. Discuss as a large group, providing guidance on how the research process works in your field.

Note: This assignment could be adapted for a virtual environment using the discussion board feature.

Note: This assignment could be made more specific for your course by having students review the handout for a research or inquiry-based assignment, and then having them complete the true/false activity with statements based directly on the requirements for the assignment. For example:

* For this assignment, your primary goal is to compile information on your topic
* For this assignment, your primary goal is to develop a preliminary answer to your research question
* You should be able to obtain most of the information in your paper from a single source