What is Research?

My Undergraduate Perspective

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About Katie Wolf:

• Undergraduate at the University of Minnesota
• Double Major in Math and Computer Science (Minor in Italian)
• Researching led me to studying abroad in Italy for Spring 2011
HOW DID I GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH?

- Internship for almost two years
- GHC 2008

- I wanted to know ‘What is research?’ from my own perspective
- GHC 2009
MY RESEARCH BACKGROUND:

Distributed Research Experience for Undergraduates (DREU):
Summer 2009: Oregon State University
Automatic Bird Species Recognition via Audio

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP):
Spring 2010: University of Minnesota
Clustering and Topic Extraction of Micro Blogs
MY RESEARCH BACKGROUND:

Distributed Research Experience for Undergraduates (DREU):
Summer 2010: University of Southern California
Expressive music performance analysis
CSCI 4994H: Honors Thesis – Directed Research
Fall 2010: University of Minnesota
Continuation of USC DREU Research
WHAT DO I THINK RESEARCH IS?

Questioning
- Searching for knowledge

Exploring
- Discovering new things
- Expanding ideas

Presenting
- Reporting findings
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Contact professors

- Connect with experienced students

- Look for UROP and REU opportunities – there are a lot out there

- Sign up for newsletters
HOW TO FIND TOPICS

- Look at things that interest you
- Speak with Professors
- Read papers
- Attend conferences
HOW TO INTEGRATE RESEARCH INTO UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITIES

- Find paid opportunities to do research for both experience and income
- Take for credit
- Use as Honors experience
WHAT WERE THE UPS AND DOWNS?

-UPS
  - Defining your own work
  - Sense of satisfaction
  - Learning a lot!

-DOWNS
  - Getting stuck
  - Staying organized
  - Planning ahead