***“Who would you be and what would you do if you weren’t afraid?”* (Brooks, 2015, p.A31)**

**Think about this question, and take PRIDE in your College Experience!**

STDV 100 is a course designed to help you explore all of the facets of a community college experience. From advising, to planning, to pursuing a major, to graduating, to transferring and/or becoming a member of the workforce, STDV 100 is designed to be a beacon-a guide-on the path to empowerment and hope.

**I contend that PRIDE is the key factor in your ability to define that path for yourself!**

**P**assion-explore a school, a career or a topic that is of interest and value to YOU!

**R**esearch-find information about the school, the career, or the topic through avenues that make sense and are useful to YOU!

**I**nquiry-ask questions about the school, the career, or the topic that deliver answers to YOU!

**D**esign-create a plan of action that empowers, inspires and motivates YOU!

**E**ngagement-share your findings with a community that is behind YOU: your classmates! (You might consider taking your project beyond our classroom, too!)

**Here’s how it works…**

**Step 1: Define your passion**. Will it be a career or college exploration? Will it be a journey to find answers to burning questions or powerful ideas?

Ask yourself: What would be the most meaningful use of my time throughout this semester in this course? Do I need to explore a career path? Would I like to look more deeply into a school that I’ve been considering for transfer? Would I prefer to find answers to something that I am truly absorbed in and need to know more about? Is there something I want to fix or change in my community or society? Then, ask yourself: Which of these could mean the most to me over the long term? What benefits would I find in pursuing the direction that I’ve chosen while here at RVCC and beyond?

**Step 2: Plan your research.** Where will I go to find the answers to my questions? Do I need to rely on primary or secondary resources that I can find in a library or database? Are there other ways to learn more about my topic? Which of these ways would provide me with the greatest, clearest, and most authoritative information? How will I cite the sources that I use?

**Step 3: Ask questions.** Use the KWHLN approach.

What do I ***know*** about my career/college/passion? What do I ***want*** to know about it? ***How*** will I find the answers? What did I ***learn***? ***Now, what*** will I do with what I’ve learned?

**Step 4: Develop a plan.** Take the “N” from above and truly decide what steps you will take with the information that you’ve garnered. Will you simply do a presentation in class because that is the requirement? Or, will you start a new club on campus? Will you support a community agency that focuses on the issue that you researched? Will you shadow someone in the field to explore the career more closely? Will you schedule an overnight campus visit or sit in on a class to learn more about the college you explored?

**Step 5: Share your experiences.** Present what you’ve done throughout this project to your classmates and instructor. Include an overview of what happened at each step #1-4. Be sure to focus on what motivated you to make the choice that you did and explain how the experience will or will not empower you to move forward in your academic/career pursuits. Remember, even if you do not succeed with your intended plan, the PROCESS IS OFTEN MORE VALUABLE THAN THE PRODUCT! What you have learned throughout might be more meaningful than what you create!

**Timelines/Deadlines:**

Step 1: Due by 10/17 when we visit the Library for our Research Class. *PLEASE NOTE: You may choose to work with a partner or a group if you have similar interests.*

Step 2: Work on throughout the remainder of the semester. I will be checking in with each of you.

Step 3: “KW” due by 10/17 when we visit the Library for our Research Class. “HL” due prior to Step 4. “N” due prior to Step 5. I will be checking in with each of you.

Step 4: Due on or before 11/28. On 11/28, you’ll have time to work in class on your presentation, so you should have all the other steps completed before this point.

Step 5: We will randomly assign or classmates can volunteer to present on Monday, 12/5 or 12/12 during our class time. If necessary, we will add a third presentation date on Monday, 12/19 from 9:30-11:30 am (final exam period).

**KWHLN Template-use this model to get your ideas started, or recreate it in a way that is more useful for you.**

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| What do I know about the college/career/topic that I chose? |  |
| What do I want to know about the college/career/topic that I chose? |  |
| How will I find answers to the questions that I have about the college/career/topic that I chose? |  |
| What did I learn about the college/career/topic that I chose? |  |
| Now, what will I do with all that I’ve learned about the college/career/topic that I chose? |  |

# References

Brooks, D. (2015, October 23). Lady Gaga and the Life of Passion. *The New York Times*, p. A31.