Library Assignment: Be Curious!

Think of an item of interest to you that might be available in the Benedictine University Library. This could be a book you remember enjoying in the past or you may want to try to find something related to a personal or academic area of interest: green energy, entrepreneurship, a play, or a book of poetry. If you are still unsure what to select, try to find a book related to a major you are considering.

Step 1: Go to the library web page: www.ben.edu/library and search the library catalog to locate the book.

For this exercise, please select a print book, not an eBook.

Step 2:
- Go to the Library Collections (basement of Kindlon Hall), find the item on the shelf, and check it out.
- If the item you selected is not available for loan, please find and check out a related item. (Items not available for loan may include books already checked out to another person, books on reserve for a class, reference books, or eBooks.)
- Bring the book to class on the date assigned by your instructor

Ask a library staff member if you have any questions about these steps.

Some classes may require you to reflect on the work you have done, usually in the form of a short essay. Taking the time to think about your thought process helps you to consider what you have learned and how you might put that knowledge into practice in the future.

Step 3: Write a brief essay (one-pager) answering the questions below. Please include the name of the book you found and brought to class.

- Why are you interested in this book or this topic?
- Did you look for a specific book or just any book on this topic?
- Did you find the book you located in the library catalog or did you end up checking out another related item?
- Please detail the steps you took to find your book. Please be as specific as possible.
- Was finding a book easier or harder than you expected?
- What about this experience was new to you?
- What was familiar?
- What would you still like to know?
- Based on this activity, describe at least one way the library can support your role as an academic learner.

This exercise was adapted by Joan Hopkins from an assignment designed by Heather Jagman, of DePaul University