Step 1
One of the hardest parts of next year’s task is generating ideas for your research topic. For this assignment you need to have THREE topics you are interested in. They do not have to be specific, and you’re not married to these ideas. It’s just a starting place.

For each of the THREE ideas complete the following.

Part 1
Using one of your areas of interest as a guide, find an episode of “Stuff You Should Know,” “Freakonomics,” “Hidden Brain” or any other podcast relevant to an area of interest. Listen to it.

Stuff you Should Know gives a general overview of an area, asks lots of interesting questions, and is great at piquing interest within a field. There are hundreds of episodes, and I’m sure there is something relevant to a topic you like.

Part 2
As you listen, think about questions relevant to your topic. These can be new areas to explore, things you are curious about or even tangential if something pops into your mind. As you listen, write down your questions. The more the better. Questions can be general or specific to research topics.

Part 3
Create a brief annotation for the source.
Sample Annotation Outline

This should serve as a quick guide, so you can remind yourself of the source and go back to it if necessary.

1. A list of questions you thought of while listening
2. General Overview / Summary
3. Credibility of source (Is the information reliable?)
4. Usefulness (Could this source be useful in a research paper? What pieces could be useful?)

Episode: **Frida Kahlo: Painter, Icon, Genius**

Questions:
- How much does an artist’s childhood impact their choices as an artist?
- Why do some Spanish people have so many names?
- Why do certain artist’s attract different kinds of people?
- How does constant pain impact a person’s life? Artistically? Relationships?
- How consistent is art interpretation between people?
- Can you predict how a person’s background will affect their interpretation of art?
- Does political worldview extend to art interpretation?
- How do people feel about assisted suicide? Is this feeling evolving?

This podcast gives an overview of the life of Frida Kahlo. They spend a few minutes documenting Frida’s battle with polio, her nearly fatal accident when she was eighteen, her relationships, her art, and her death. They also talk briefly about the movie *Frida*, and Salma Hayek’s sexual abuse at the hands of Harvey Weinstein.

Although they cover quite a bit of material, they do provide some depth. However, one presenter is quite effusive concerning Frida, and his appreciation of her art and life might bias his perspective.

The presenters are secondary sources and rely on books and articles written by others. It would be better to cite that information in my paper.