"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."
-Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston's definition of research published in her 1942 autobiography "Dust Tracks on a Road" invites us to recognize the various components of our intellectual projects. As an anthropologist and novelist, Hurston's research process included ethnographic fieldwork throughout the Caribbean and the Southern United States. However, Hurston's research process also included: careful interpretation of the data she collected during this fieldwork; remote correspondence with collaborators and colleagues; extensive reading of existing publications in her fields of study; and writing and speaking about her research to various audiences across the world.

Hurston's definition of research empowers us to see the multiple opportunities for pursuing research during our current shift toward remote learning. For example, during this time you might pursue your research by:

- Crafting a literature review
- Designing new protocols for laboratory experiments
- Analyzing existing data sets
- Coding interview transcripts
- Writing proposals for future projects
- And/or communicating your work-in-progress via virtual conferences and symposia

All of these endeavors represent the fullness of our "formalized curiosity," which guides the research process. Students can use this list of research endeavors to frame conversations with faculty mentors, academic enrichment programs staff, peers, and other research collaborators, prompting further discussion about how we pursue research remotely. We invite students to contact AEP staff at aep@ucsd.edu if they have any questions.