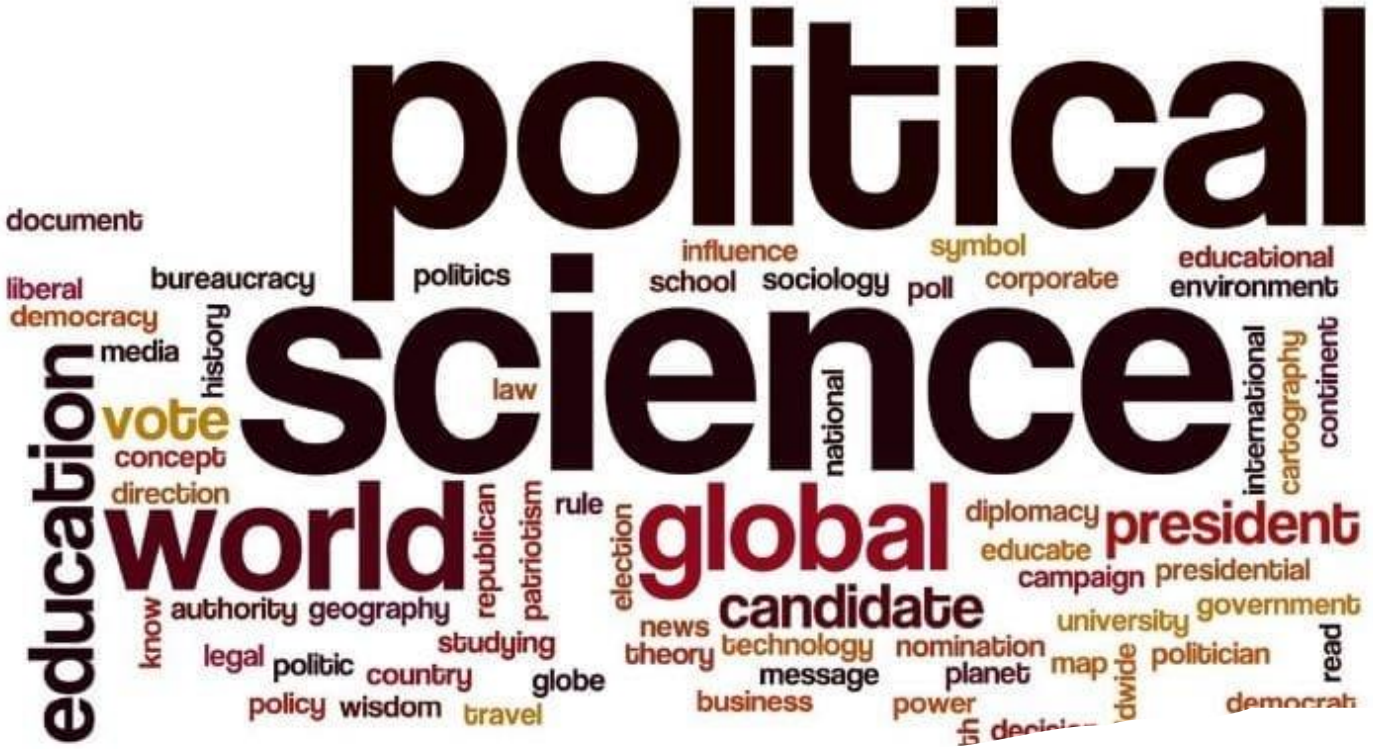
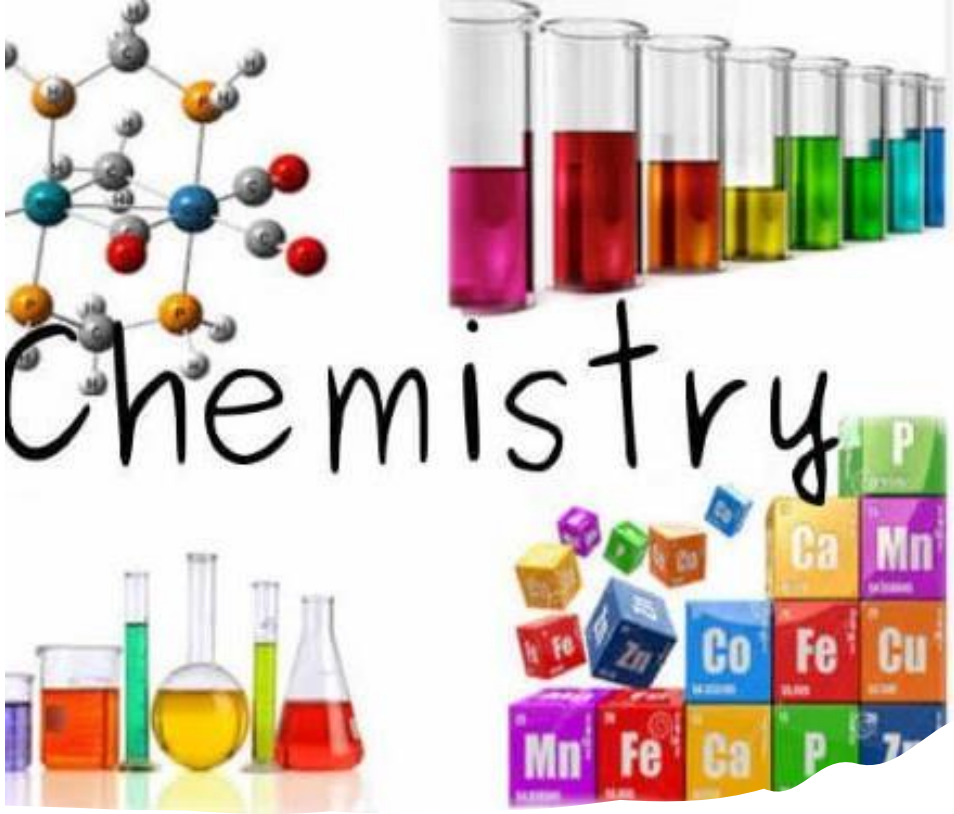
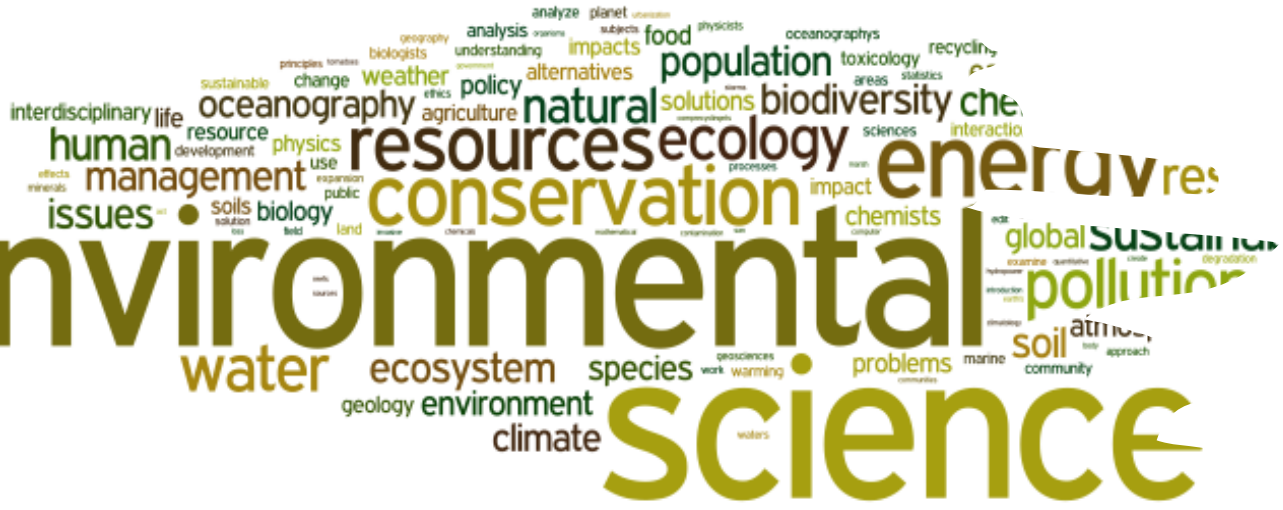
The interdisciplinary research process provides a means to break down the traditional silos of research and discovery that exist within the traditional academic disciplines. Drawing from two or more disciplines provides the researcher a more diverse field of knowledge to gather information and formulate potential solutions. This is a departure from traditional research where the investigation would take place entirely within an identified discipline of study.

The interdisciplinary research process consists of 10 steps. The researcher begins with identifying the problem that is to be studied. Step 2 validates that the research benefits from exploring more than one discipline to adequately gain the required information. If the interdisciplinary process is used the next step is to identify the relevant disciplines that will be used in the research. The 4th step is to begin literature search. This includes both the research to determine if there is enough information for the problem and the full-scale research. Step 5 develops adequacy for the project. Adequacy in the discipline refers to understanding the discipline's epistemology, assumptions, theories, and cognitive map. In step 6 the researcher analyzes the problem and insights from the relevant disciplines. Insights are contributions to the problem based on research. Insights can be produced by disciplinary experts or interdisciplinarians. In steps 7 and 8 The researcher identifies if there are conflicts with the insights and the authors between the two disciplines and looks to find common ground in other insights that support each other. In step 9 the researcher integrates the common insights and in the last step produces an interdisciplinary understanding using the multiple disciplines and then tests the understanding.

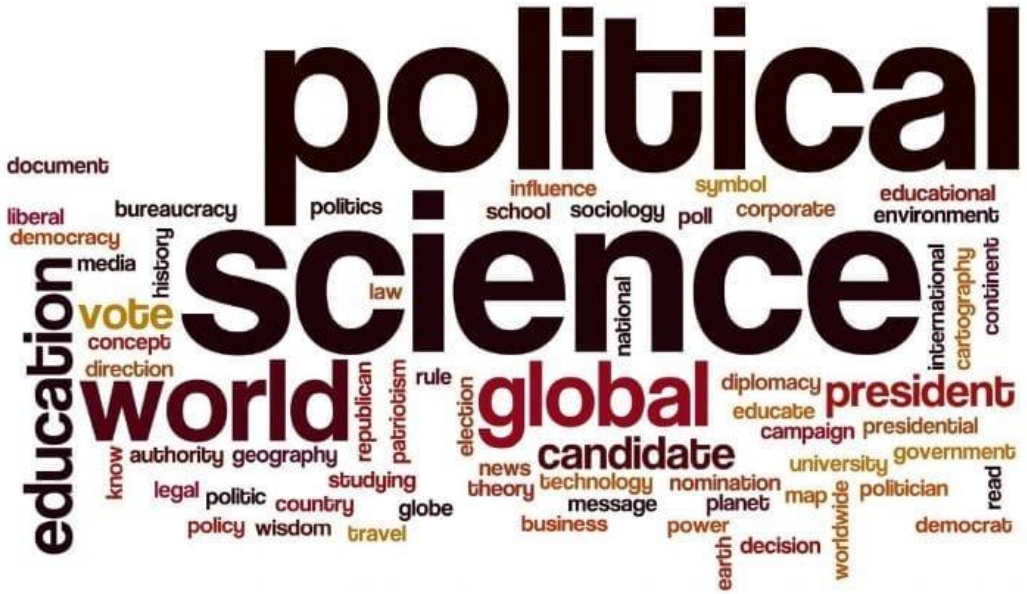
Step 1: Define the Problem

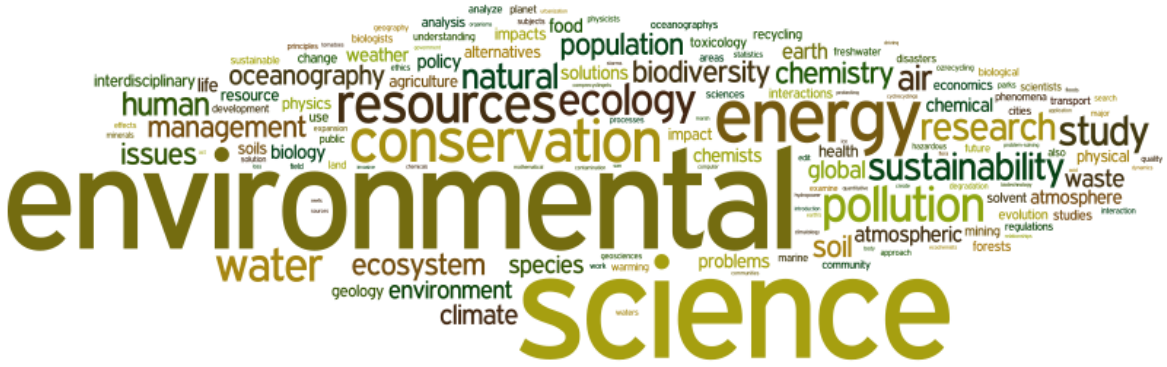






Step 2: Justify Using an Interdisciplinary Approach

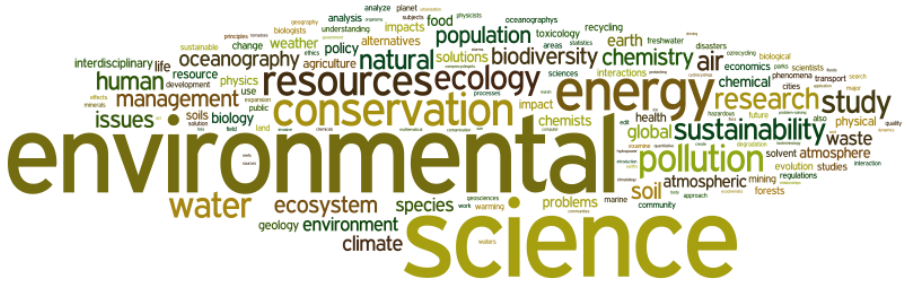


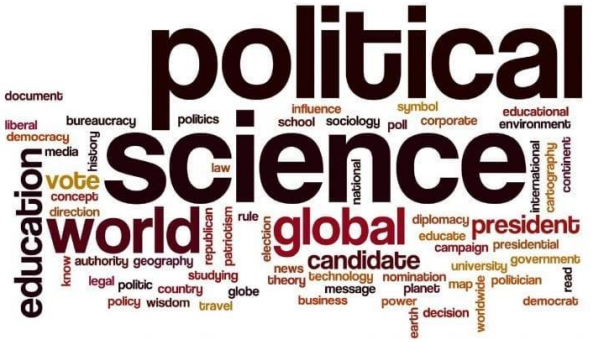


Step 3: Identify Relevant Discplines

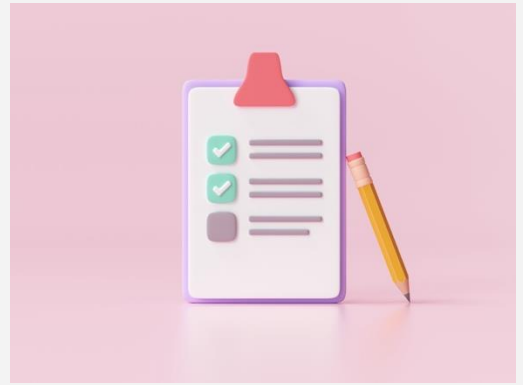
Step 4: Conduct the Literature Search

Step 5: Develop Adequacy in each Relevant Discipline

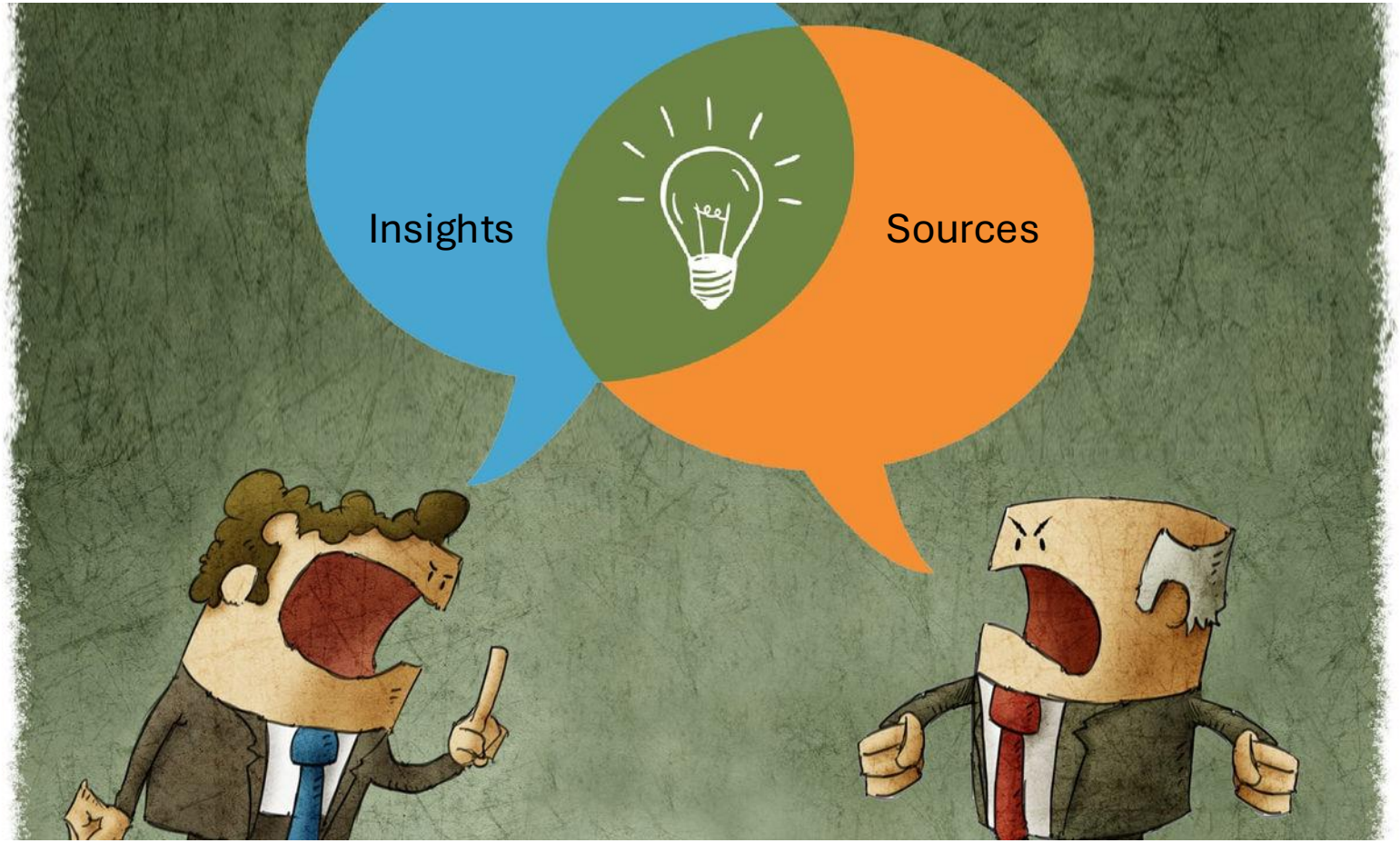




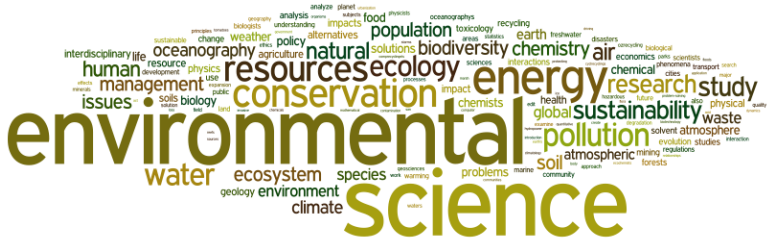
Step 6: Analyze the Problem and Evaluate Each Insight into it.

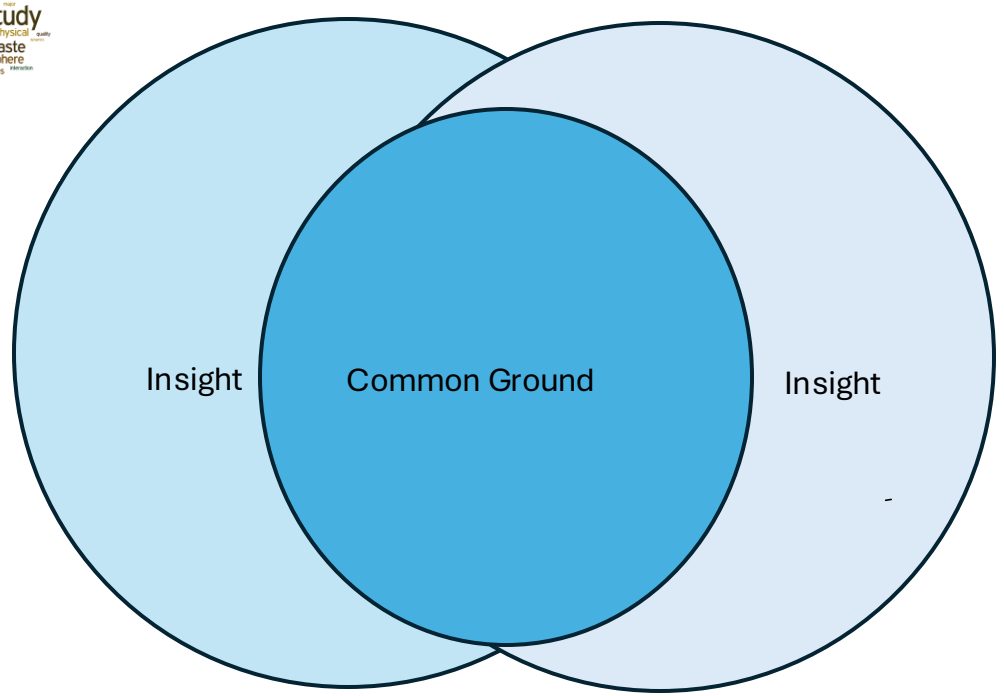


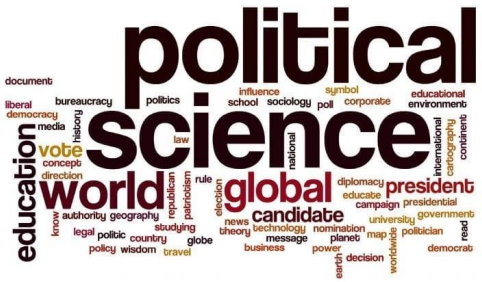
Step 7: Identify Conflicts Between Insights and their Sources



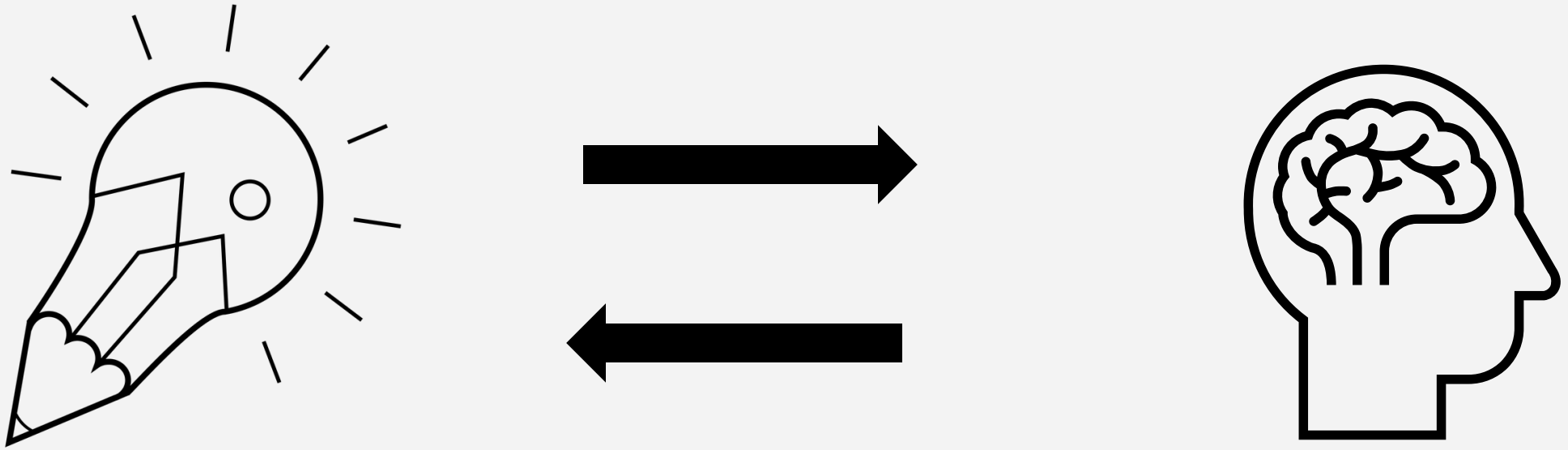
Step 8: Create or Discover Common Ground



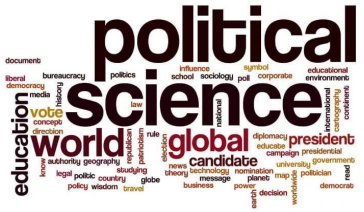




Step 9: Integrate Insights



Step 10: Produce an Interdisciplinary Understanding and Test it



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