DS 574 **Discussion Worksheet**
Fall 2026 Prof. Kira Goldner

Starting Research and Making Progress

What concrete question(s) are you exploring?

What have you tried, and where are you stuck? Unfinished ideas and failed attempts are welcome!

What is the smallest example you don't yet understand, or a useful special case to try? What would a counterexample look like?

From the Discussion

For someone else's question, what would you try? What needs clarification?

Useful suggestions for your question.

> **Takeaway:** Failed attempts are progress! Progress includes ruling out an approach, identifying an obstruction, or making a question precise—not just proving a result.

What is one concrete next move, and what do you hope to learn from it?