

Quick Tips Research



Research should begin with curiosity. You begin by asking questions about a particular topic. Once you find some answers, then you can begin to shape your writing. The research paper doesn't merely rehash others' ideas or writing, but rather presents your investigation and its results.

What do I need to do?

1. Be prepared. Before you even consider starting to write or research your essay, you must have the answers to the following questions: What is the title of the essay or the question you have been asked? How long must the essay be? What other requirements are there (presentation, referencing, bibliography, etc.)? If you're not sure you understand the topic or question for the essay, **ask your professor** for clarification!
2. Tackling the question. Keep the question in mind as you start to select materials. Start with basic reading: lecture notes, handouts, relevant chapters in core texts. When you are familiar with the basics, go on to more detailed texts: articles in journals, texts referred to by your professor, references in handouts, references in core texts.
3. Be selective. Keep the question/topic in mind and be selective. Use information that directly applies to your essay. When you come across something that you think might be helpful *write down the bibliographical information* for that source and note its relevance.

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