# The RESEARCH Process

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# ***Get Ready for the Research Process.***

## Human nature & research:

## 1. We’re lazy and naive.

### We underestimate the time and effort research takes.

### We expect it to be easy.

### We assume that all we need is information.

### We assume the information we want is available in the form we expect.

## 2. In fact, good research:

### takes time and effort,

### is often difficult,

### getting information is just part of the story.

## *and, sometimes the information is simply NOT available, or not available in the forms we expect.*

# ***Expect some confusion, frustration & anxiety, especially as you move further into the research process.***

## *We start confidently*, but as we research, confidence disappears and we experience uncertainty. Uncertainty is normal and to be expected.

## *Uncertainty increases* because you encounter new information that doesn’t fit with what you already know or believe.

## *After some time, we form a new perspective*, a new personal focus, and then we feel better! We needed more than information—we needed a perspective that allowed meaning to be drawn from the new information.

# ***When You Research***

## Don’t be surprised. Be prepared:

### to experience frustration & confusion as you dig in. *Remember it will not last*.

### to take a few wrong turns.

### to refine your research questions.

### to need to read background material.

### to document your sources and your process.

### to examine materials that won’t be used.

### to be delayed over availability issues.

# ***Note-taking for your Research Papers.***

## When you research, do not take extensive notes.

#### You will not need to document basic information that is non-controversial and would be found by looking in most basic sources. But *be careful about plagiarism—any use of another person’s ideas or words must be cited.*

## You will need to back up with quotations and or citations anything that requires an authority:

#### information that is not commonly known.

#### unique, apt, pithy, especially effective wording,

#### interpretations,

#### controversial claims,

#### expert opinions,

#### analysis.