

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.