

# *Research and Writing Tips Online*

## **Research Process**

Probably one of the most difficult parts of doing research is getting started. Selecting a topic can be frustrating and overwhelming. It is always a good idea to select a topic or idea to research you that you find interesting enough to pursue. Talk to your professor about your topic. This will help you focus your ideas and enable you to narrow or broaden your research if necessary. In addition you should always talk to a reference librarian about your ideas. They can help you formulate your searches and direct you to the proper resources.

Throughout your project you might want to check in with your professor from time to time give him or her a progress report. Also, I cannot stress to you enough that the reference librarians are there to help you and you should consult with them also throughout your project. The right research tools used properly and efficiently can save you time and frustration. Below is a list of University sites that will actually help guide you through the process.

- <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill1.htm> Cornell offers an easy useful guide to help students through the research process
- <http://libweb.sonoma.edu/research/subguides.html> A well organized site that will take you step by step through the research process.
- <http://msass.case.edu/harrislibrary/> This site lists the research process in thirteen steps. Case Western does a great job of breaking it down. The site also gives several useful links to explore.
- <http://webster.comnet.edu/grammar/> This site has several drop down windows that can help you with the writing process. Look at the drop down menu under 'Essay and Research Paper Level' for information on different types of research paper organization and documentation. Also structural considerations, like the thesis statement, beginnings and endings etc.
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> Another wonderful informative site to help you with the actual writing process. Click on the 'Handouts and Materials' drop down menu for the 'Complete Handout Index' to select topic you might want assistance in.
- <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html> Also useful for advice on writing techniques and examples. A good menu and outline, very user friendly and easy to maneuver around on.
- <http://www.lib.byu.edu/BLLISS/public/start.htm> great site! See also the alphabetical list of all subject research guides for specific tools to use on individual topics and subjects. This is quite an extensive site with work sheets you can print out to help with your search strategy.
- <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2/rstrategy> Terrific site for undergraduates. This site can help you select a topic if you are having trouble. Click on 'define a topic and follow the screens.
- <http://bailey.uvm.edu/ref/researchhonors.html> This guide gives a good overview of the process. It also has some useful general items (like how to read call numbers) that can be very helpful.
- <http://library.wustl.edu/research/design.html> The site poses questions that will help any student manage their time better and get better organized when starting a research assignment.

## **Writing Skill**

- <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/> This site has several drop down windows that can help you with the writing process. Look at the drop down menu under 'Essay and Research Paper Level' for information on different types of research paper organization and documentation. Also structural considerations, like the thesis statement, beginnings and endings etc.
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