

Important Information About The Research Project

What You Are Doing

Although you are completing an assignment, don't forget to try to learn as you are completing it. Research can be a great learning opportunity, and many find it to be one of the most enjoyable activities in education.

Independent Nature

You are expected to work independently on this project. I will not "hold your hand" throughout the process. Make sure you have read all the material provided and attempted to understand what we are doing before consulting with me. That said, I want to work with you on the research and help to give you suggestions.

Time & Work

You will have several class periods of usable time in the computer lab. Use your time wisely; however, don't be in such a rush that you miss the opportunity to explore your topic area. For the record, I expect students to be quiet and work independently. If you visit or do not use your time, you will be taken off the project -you will work alone, copying small print from a book. Understand?

Your Topic Question/Theory/Hypothesis

There is often a misunderstanding of how to go about creating a question or hypothesis to research. Further, it's important to understand that there are many types of research. In some research you perform experiments or observe things to gain knowledge. In other research you are simply attempting to find out facts about a particular topic. **THESE ARE NOT THE TYPES OF RESEARCH WE ARE COMPLETING.** Instead, we are, in some ways, trying to complete research to answer a question that is at a higher level of thinking. We are taking multiple ideas and combining them into a research question. In Bloom's Taxonomy Levels, we are at the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation levels. We aren't only trying to find out how many Ford Mustangs were built in 1968 (a report), we are attempting to find out something about people, society, or whatever, and how the 1968 Ford Mustang relates to those larger areas.

Key Words In Your Topic Sentence

If we are creating a question at the analysis, synthesis, or evaluation level, then we should have key words from those areas in our research question. Words such as: explain, connect, compare, assess, convince, support, conclude, etc. An example of one student's research question is: *How has the perception of Harley motorcycle riders changed from the 1960s to today?*

MOST IMPORTANT ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

The most important thing about beginning research is NOT to get hung up on an original question or hypothesis. In this type of research you are trying to gather information to prove or understand your research question. BUT ... you will often have to adjust or change your research question as you begin to look into the subject. Let the information you find begin to shape your search. **WARNING:** This has to be done early in the research. Don't change half way through.