

RESEARCH FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

Research “answers a question that not only the researcher but also others want to solve . . . a true researcher must share their findings and conclusions with others” (Turabian 5).

Regent’s Library offers great resources to students! The Librarians have created lists of databases by school, so students can access books, journal articles, and more:

<http://libguides.regent.edu/databases>

BEST RESEARCH METHODS:

1. **Know Your Assignment Prompt**– As a student, your assignment prompt determines your research’s focus. Make sure that your research and later your thesis fully cover all aspects of the prompt.
2. **Draft a well-formulated research question** – If your professor’s prompt is a statement, then turn it into question form. Your whole paper will aim to answer this question.
3. **Develop a Hypothesis** – Develop a working hypothesis that answers your research question and includes your reasons for this answer. Base your hypothesis on your initial research, not on opinion.
4. **Research Different Perspectives** – As you gather sources, read a variety of perspectives on your topic. To create a strong research paper, you need to address opposing and alternate viewpoints.
5. **Craft Your Thesis**– Once you gather all your sources, evaluate your hypothesis. Does the research support your initial claim? If the research contradicts your original hypothesis, adjust your hypothesis to the research. This working hypothesis becomes your thesis statement. Your thesis must contain a claim and usually 3 reasons for this claim. Please see the “Thesis Statement” handout for more information.
6. **Test Your Thesis** – Before you start writing your paper, test your thesis. Does your research use scholarly sources? Current research? Multiple Perspectives? Contradictions? (Turabian 55).
7. **Write Your Paper** – Use your thesis to organize your research paper. Make sure you include multiple sources for each reason.

PRACTICE NOW