

Collecting Research

Plan your Research

Research Questions	I want to research _____ to find out _____ (<i>who, what, where, why, when, whether ...</i>)
Key Search Words	Brainstorm (related words from your course, readings, lectures, discussions)
Sources	Sources I can use: <input type="checkbox"/> Google Scholar <input type="checkbox"/> Peer-Reviewed articles Library Database Others? _____ Check with your instructor. Review the Research Guide for your program: https://researchguides.library.brocku.ca/
Evaluate Sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate audience <input type="checkbox"/> Cited by others in the field <input type="checkbox"/> Reputable or Recommended

Track your Research

Author(s)	
Date	
Title	
Publication Information	(Journal/Publisher, volume, issue, pages/call #, etc.)
Page #	Quotation or Paraphrase:
My Ideas	How I plan to use it in my paper:

Tips:

Read the title. Look for words that relate to your topic.

Read the abstract. The abstract is a condensation of the main points of the article. The abstract is also useful because it summarizes the article/research including methods and results.

Read the closing paragraph. The best evidence comes from the research article's conclusion/results section! This is where you find the summation of the points provided and the overall conclusion.



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Using Research

Criteria for a Good Paraphrase

1. Has the same meaning as the original. No new ideas are added.
2. Is different enough from the original to be considered your own writing.
3. Refers directly to (or cites) the original source.

Strategy #1: Parsing

1. Divide the original into groups of words, or pieces of information. Focus on explaining each piece.
2. Read the original several times.
3. Underline main ideas and/or write in a bulleted list.
4. As you write each idea, use your own words.
5. Combine these ideas to form a paraphrase.
6. After writing the paraphrase, check the original to ensure that you captured the meaning of the original and did not duplicate any original wording or sentence structure.

Strategy #2: Tell a Friend Method

1. Concentrate on the meaning.
2. Look away from the original and try to explain the meaning, as if you were talking to a friend.
3. After writing the paraphrase, check the original to ensure that you captured the meaning of the original and did not duplicate any original wording or sentence structure.

Strategy #3: Strategic Questioning

Source	Sample Questions
Theory, Arguments, Policies etc.	“How can I explain this theory/argument/policy to someone?” “What are the main elements or ideas?”
Research	“What was the purpose of the research?” “What questions were the researchers trying to answer?” “What methods did the researchers use?” “What were the results?”

Quoting

Quoted material should be woven into the text of your essay so that it is part of the sentence structure.

Rule 1: Independent clause: "quotation."

Rule 2: Signal phrase, "quotation."

Rule 3: If Rules 1 and 2 do not apply, do not use any punctuation between your words and the quoted words.

Examples (in APA style documentation)

1. Independent clause: "quotation" (page).

Jones (2001) found that intrinsic motivation improves students’ academic performance:
 “Students who are intrinsically motivated perform well academically” (p. 1).

2. Signal phrase, "quotation" (page)

Jones (2001) states, “students who are intrinsically motivated perform well academically” (p. 1).

