Your Research Process

Think about a time when you had to research something for work or a personal project.

● What was your approach to the research process?
● Did you follow steps?

Map out the research process you personally follow from the moment you start to think about your project to the time you finish the final project.
Uncovering First-Year Students’ Conceptions of the Research Process

LOEX 2019 | Minneapolis, MN
Brianne Markowski, University of Northern Colorado
Rachel Dineen, University of Northern Colorado
Your Research Process

Think about a time when you had to research something for work or a personal project.

● What was your approach to the research process?
● Did you follow steps?

Map out the research process you personally follow from the moment you start to think about your project to the time you finish the final project.
*Pick topic
  Using my own thoughts and building on them with research

Add research
  include more evidence if needed to make paper stronger

Narrow down points
  through prior thought and research

Research...research
  do a lot of background research relating to topic and points

Revise
  do final edits

Write
  complete first draft

Done

Re-evaluate research
  narrow down research and put into categories for paper
Our Project

Research Question: What do first-year students think about when they think about research?

Methods: qualitative, inductive thematic analysis

Data Set: research process maps from first-semester, first-year students (N=44)
Our Population

LIB 150: Introduction to Undergraduate Research
(N = 21)
Student athletes representing various majors

LIB 151: Research Skills for Beginning Researchers
(N = 23)
Honors students representing various majors
Think About the Topic

Find & Evaluate Sources

Use Sources

Organize

Feel

Make a Plan

Write & Revise
Think About the Topic

- Brainstorm
- Topic Development
- Think About What I Already Know
Establish a topic

Write out all the info I already know about the topic.

Go to reliable websites & search key words. Google

begin a rough draft of presentation/paper: slip info on paper

From the new info, find a book or outside source that can elaborate

Take notes and establish citation for all info that I find

Go back through rough draft 3-5x & see what can be added or discarded

Recreate my rough draft to a publishable piece.
1. I think about what I am passionate about then what aspects.

2. I dive deeper into my train of thought and begin making a list of questions that could possibly be researched.

3. I begin eliminating the weaker, less answerable questions.

4. I start plugging questions into a google and reading through articles. While I read through, I copy and paste good websites into a word doc.

5. I start coming up with my own thoughts and typing out my opinions into a word doc.
Use Sources

Voice / Analysis

Take Notes

Conclusion

Before Research

Quotes
1. Select a topic based on class requirements + accessibility of sources on that topic

2. Find a bunch of credible sources on the topic + gather them together

3. Sort through the sources to find similar points I want to use + weed out ones I don't use

4. Thoroughly annotate + take notes on the research to build + solidify my points

5. Start writing my paper, maybe adding or removing things as I go

6. Find more research to fill in any gaps in my paper

7. Edit + revise paper for any mistakes

8. Cite all sources

9. Turn in 😊
1. Narrow down topic

2. Begin Research
   - book references
   - online references
   - journal/critical references
   - *create bibliography, note cards for each source + quotes*

3. Narrow down points based on research

4. Write outline with intro, thesis, body points, & conclusion
   - *make sure quotes and references fit smoothly with rest of paper. If not, back to step #2*

5. Write full rough draft based on outline

6. Write final draft + Bibliography / source page + Turn it in!

*After grammar + content review by peers + self*
Make
Pretty

Rough Draft / Revisions

Write & Revise

Seek Help / Peer Review

Make
Pretty
Pick Topic

Watch videos about topic
- Find articles
- Find books online/in library

Organize into an outline

Source to use

Teacher edit/feedback

Peer edit

Rough draft

Citation page

Fix errors

Re-read essay

Add anything necessary

Final draft
Discussion

1. What differences do you see between your research process and the processes outlined by the students?

2. How will these differences inform your approach to the classroom and information literacy instruction?
Implications for Practice

For us it may look like...

- More time for topic development
- Prompting students to think about sources they’ve found
- Use students knowledge of the writing process to discuss “drafting” their research
Future Plans

- Continue to collect research process maps
- Continue with thematic analysis of maps
- Write up findings in an article
Questions?
Thank you!

Brianne Markowski
Information Literacy Librarian / Assistant Professor
University of Northern Colorado
brianne.markowski@unco.edu

Rachel Dineen
Information Literacy Librarian / Assistant Professor
University of Northern Colorado
rachel.dineen@unco.edu