**Research Paper Planner**

**Step 1 : Get Started.**

WHEN: Week 2

Be sure to:

Read and understand your assignment.

Understand what is an academic paper.

Create your own research schedule (know deadlines- use some type of calendar).

**STEP 2: Pick and focus your topic; write a hypothesis or argument**

WHEN: Week 3   
Use topic invention techniques and thought starters. Brainstorm topic search words. Use your textbook. When choosing a topic be sure to narrow or broaden your topic as needed.

**STEP 3: Design research strategy and choose useful information sources**

WHEN: Week 4   
Check the flow of information.

Select an appropriate type of information source.

**Step 4: Find useful books, periodicals, and authoritative, accurate, and up to date web sites.**

WHEN: Weeks 5-7   
(Here are some links to some useful websites)

* + [Evaluate books](http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/evalbk.html)
  + [Find article index databases by subject](http://www.library.ucla.edu/search/624.cfm)
  + [Evaluate article index databases](http://www.library.ucla.edu/pdf/dissecting_database.pdf)
  + [Scholarly Journal Articles v. Popular Magazine Articles](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/rtr.php?module=Start&section=Materials&page=04)
  + [Watch videos on how to find useful articles](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/rtr.php?module=Find&section=Articles&page=01a)
  + [Evaluate articles](http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/evaljrl.html)
  + [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/)
  + Learn how Google Scholar [compares](http://www.library.ucla.edu/googlescholar/searchengines.cfm) to article databases
  + [Try It!](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/rtr.php?module=Find&section=Articles&page=20) Road to Research: Find It! Articles, Exercise
  + [Thinking Critically about Web 2.0 and Beyond](http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/11605_12008.cfm)
  + [Hoax? Scholarly research? Personal opinion? You decide!](http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/11605_12006.cfm)
  + [Try it! Internet Evaluation Form (UC Berkeley)](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/EvalForm.pdf)

**STEP 5: Outline paper**

WHEN: Week 8   
[Writing a Research Paper](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/index.html)  (very useful link to research papers)

**STEP 6: Analyze, compare and contrast the evidence, come to your own conclusions, and write first draft**

WHEN: Weeks 9-10

* + [Plagiarism -- What is it?](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html)
  + [Bruin Success with Less Stress](http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/) (tutorial on plagiarism and documentation)
  + [Planning and writing a research paper](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html)

**STEP 7: Revise and rewrite**

WHEN: Weeks 11-12

Get Writing Help

**STEP 8: Put paper in final form**

WHEN: Week 13

* + [Why do I need to cite?](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/rtr.php?module=Etiquette&section=Citation&page=02)
  + [Which is Which? What is Where?](http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/11605_12014.cfm)   
    To determine correct citation format, first figure out what kind of item you want to cite.
  + How to cite: [KnightCite](http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/) or [Citation Machine](http://citationmachine.net/)