

Research



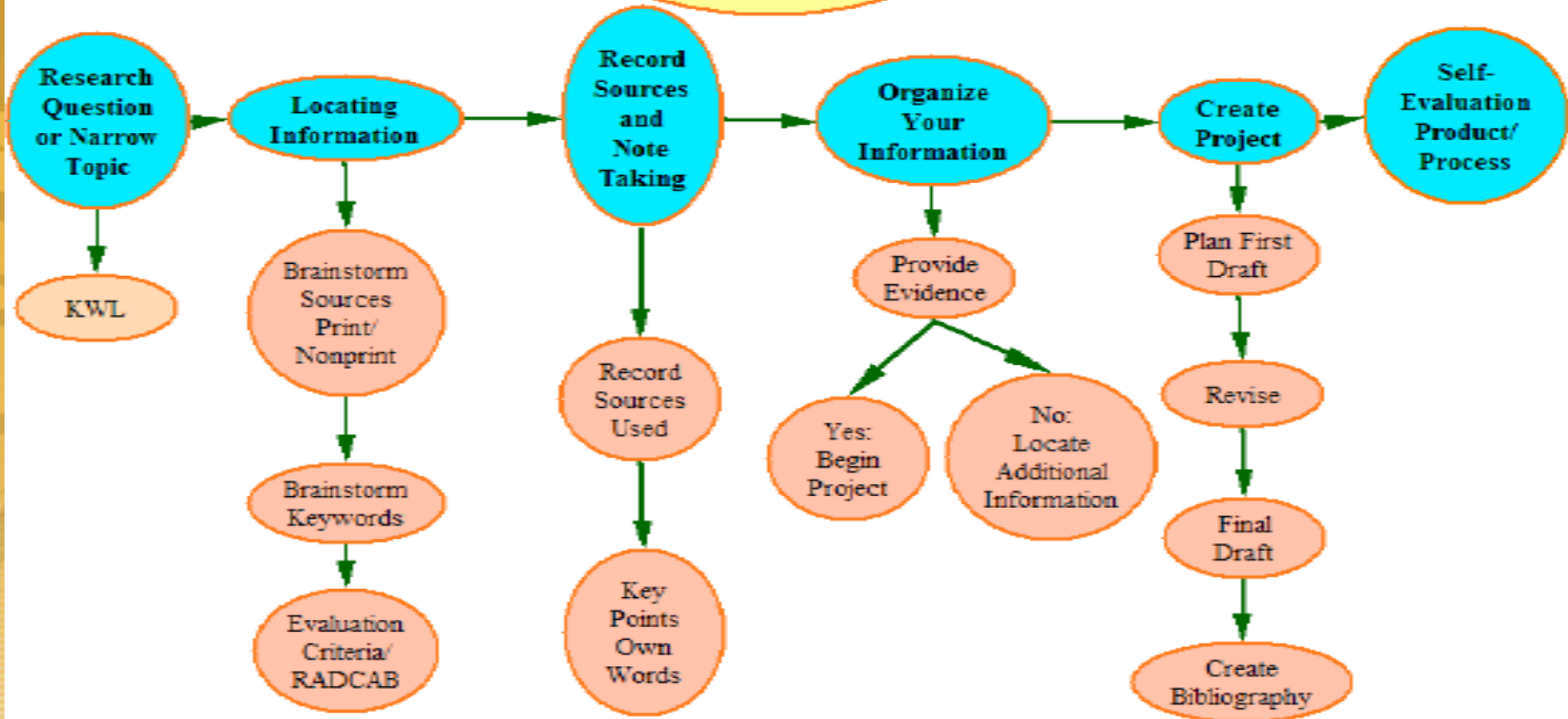
The Research Paper

Planning and Writing a Term Paper



The Steps

Steps of the Research Process



Research



Select your **topic**

- Choose a **topic** for your research
- Write possible research questions.

Sample:

Topic... poverty

Challenge: The topic of **poverty** is too broad. Use a research question to narrow your search for information.

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Topics vs. Research Questions

Broad Topics

- Poverty
- Nutrition
- Education
- Transportation
- Healthcare



- What are the causes and effects of poverty on children?
- What are the causes and effects of poor nutrition?
- What are the benefits of a college education?
- What are some alternative fuel sources for vehicles?
- What causes cancer?
- What are the causes of an eating disorder?



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Identifying & Evaluating Sources





R*A*D*C*A*B

- R-Relevancy
- A-Appropriateness
 - D-Detail
 - C-Currency
 - A-Authority
 - B-Bias

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Choosing sources wisely

- Websites: .edu, .gov & .org sites are generally trustworthy
- Do not use a “wiki” site
- Articles: Skim over the article to see if the content is relevant to your topic.

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Choosing sources wisely

- Books: Read the table of contents, look up specific chapters that seem relevant to determine if the content supports your topic.
- Is there a bias that would make the information slanted?

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Source Cards and Note taking

- In order to keep track of your information sources, writers of research reports create source cards.

	A
Stanford, William. <u>The Pulitzer Prize Novels.</u>	
Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1985.	
812.3	
S22p	

Research



Note cards

- In order to keep track of your evidence, writers of research reports create note cards.

Number of card. (1A*)
Heading: subject of note and context of information (EX: Deer population--problems with overpopulation in cities)
Write your one note here. If it is a direct quotation, use quotation marks to show that it is. Be sure you only have one note, one main idea, one quote, one summary, or one paraphrase per card. Use ellipses (. . .) if you are leaving part of the quote out.
(p. 112) page number of information in book, magazine, etc.

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What next?

- Once your note taking is done, it is time to create your outline.
- The less time you spend on your outline, the more time it will take to write your rough draft. Unfortunately, your paper will also be less organized.
- The more time you spend on your outline, the less time it will take to write your rough draft. Plus...you will have a better organized paper!!

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Suggestions...

- Find a folder or 9x12 envelope to keep all your materials separate from other school paperwork.
- Keep these papers in order from day one.
- Write your name on all papers.
- Buy your index cards right away.
- You will also need a rubber band for the index cards.
- Buy or borrow a flash drive to be used for all of this academic term. Write your name on the drive or label it in some way.
- Start thinking about your possible topic immediately. When you have a good idea, write it down.

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...and now...

Stay caught up,
work hard, and
success will
follow.

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