

Research Process Reflection

Throughout the research process, monitor your progress to ensure you are ready to move on to the next step. If you answer no to any of these questions, you may have to go back a step or two to fill in gaps and make adjustments.

RESEARCH STEP: DEFINE

At the beginning of the Define step, you should ask yourself:

- Do I understand all aspects of my assignment?
- > What interests me about this topic?
- > What do I already know or think I know about this topic?
- > What background information would help me get an overview of my topic?
- > What intriguing questions do I have about the topic?

Before moving to the Plan step, you should ask yourself:

- > Do I know enough about the topic to ask good questions?
- > Will my question(s) lead me to answers that will fulfill my assignment or purpose for research?

RESEARCH STEP: PLAN

At the beginning of the Plan step, you should ask yourself:

- How do I turn my questions into search terms?
- > How do I turn my search terms into a good search strategy?
- > What sources might I use?

Before moving to the Find step, you should ask yourself:

- > Can my question(s) be answered through my research?
- Have I allotted enough time to find and access the sources I plan to use?

RESEARCH STEP: FIND

At the beginning of the Find step, you should ask yourself:

- > How do I locate these sources?
- ➤ Which sources will be most useful and valuable?
- > How do I evaluate the information that I find?
- ➤ How do I find the information within each source?
- > How do I record the information that answers my questions?

Before moving to the Create step, you should ask yourself:

- ➤ Have I located sources with diverse perspectives?
- ➤ Have I found enough accurate information to answer all my questions?
- ➤ Have I discovered information gaps and filled them with more research?
- > Have I recorded the citation information for the sources I used?

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RESEARCH STEP: CREATE

At the beginning of the Create step, you should ask yourself:

- Have I identified relationships and patterns within the information I found?
- ➤ Have any main ideas emerged from the research?
- > Did I find enough evidence to form an opinion or support my essential questions?
- What is the best way to organize my notes to help me make sense of my information?
- > If the choice is mine, what type of product or presentation will allow me to communicate my learning effectively to the intended audience?
- What technology will help me create a product or presentation?

Before moving to the Present step, you should ask yourself:

- > Have I organized my conclusions and evidence clearly and effectively?
- > Does my project answer my questions?
- > Does my project fulfill all the requirements of the assignment?
- > Have I revised and edited my project?
- > Have I cited all the sources I used?

RESEARCH STEP: PRESENT

At the beginning of the Present step, you should ask yourself:

- Does my project communicate my learning effectively to the intended audience?
- Who will help to review and edit my product before I present?

Before completing your project, you should ask yourself:

- ➤ Have I polished my project to make it the best it can be?
- > If I am making a presentation, have I practiced it thoroughly?
- > Do I have everything I need for my presentation?

RESEARCH STEP: REFLECT

To reflect on your research project, you should ask yourself:

- > Was my project/presentation as effective as I could make it?
- > What new questions might I now want to answer about my topic?
- ➤ How can I use the feedback I received to make my next project better?

To reflect on your research process, you should ask yourself:

- What parts of the research process did I do well? Why?
- ➤ What parts of the research process can I improve on next time? How?