The Research Life Cycle

1. Idea

2. Keywords

3. Explore

4. Refine

5. Gather

6. Evaluate

7. Cull

8. Analyze

9. Add

10. Synthesize

11. Draft

12. Final

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Research Life Cycle Worksheet

Idea (e.g. Do medications affect athletes?)
Begin with an *idea*, *question*, *hypothesis*, or *topic*. This correlates with your crafty title.
Your research idea: _____

Keywords (e.g. sports, medication, athletes, performance)
Think of synonyms, related terms, and more formal language
Your keywords: _____

Explore (e.g. library website, databases, books, Internet, Wikipedia, Google)
Use a variety of resources. Share ideas and receive feedback (e.g. professors, classmates, librarians)
List **specific** resources (e.g. JSTOR): _____

Refine (e.g. Do ADHD medications improve or inhibit athletic performance?)
Reassess your idea based on results from steps 1-3.
Your **refined** research idea: _____

Gather [e.g. articles, literature, websites, statistics (graphs and tables)]
List credible source titles:

_____

Evaluate Steps: a) are titles applicable to idea/topic? b) credibility of content/author, source type
e.g. *People Magazine* vs. *scholarly journal* c) prioritize your resources. Do they support *and* explain your topic?

Cull (e.g. is source X more applicable than source Y?)
Prioritize your list of selected resources and weed out undesirables/those at the bottom.

Analyze (e.g. Eureka!)
Discover relationships between newfound sources and your topic.

Add (e.g. ideas, opinions)
Integrate your opinions and ideas with gathered credible research. How can your sources relate to what you have learned and already know about the topic of choice?

Synthesize (e.g. Your ideas & research)
Make connections between your ideas and research.

Draft (e.g. collect all research, data, statistics, citations/references, and consider your audience)
What is your paper's general structure after determining who your audience is? Consult Writing Center for free assistance.

Final (e.g. introduction, body, conclusion, **correct** citations throughout) EndNote Workshops at Library.
What citation style platform(s) are you required to use? _____
Do you need footnotes? _____ Do you need a running header? _____ Do you need a cover page? _____
Does your paper flow? (Is it structurally and logically sound?) _____

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