



# HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH ESSAY

## Identify a Topic **1**

Your topic should be something that holds your interest and that you want to learn more about.

## Conduct Preliminary Research **2**

You need a certain amount of background information in order to develop an informed inquiry

## Draft Your Research Question **3**

A good research question is open ended (e.g. *how*, *why*) and is appropriate for the scope of your project.

## Identify & Assess Sources **4**

Using keywords from your research question (or their synonyms), locate enough sources to answer your question in a meaningful way. Whether or not you are writing a formal annotated bibliography, should be able to confirm a sources credibility and have a general plan for using it in your project.

## Outline Your Argument **5**

Whether or not you approach writing with a formal outline, you should draft (and workshop) a preliminary thesis statement and make a list of potential claims and sources of support.

## Draft your Essay **6**

Once you have a sense of where you are going, start writing. Be prepared to deviate from your outline, revise your thesis, and adjust claims.

## Revise, Revise, Revise! **7**

No draft is ever final... no one writes alone. Seek and accept feedback from instructors, peers, and writing tutors!