The RESEARCH Process
Rosedale Bible College Library
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Read left to right (on handouts)


Human nature & research:
1. We’re lazy and naive.
   • We underestimate the time and effort research takes.
   • We expect it to be easy.
   • We assume that all we need is information.
   • We assume the information we want is available in the form we expect.
2. In fact, good research:
   • takes time and effort,
   • is often difficult,
   • getting information is just part of the story.
   and, sometimes the information is simply NOT available, or not available in the forms we expect.

Expect some confusion, frustration & anxiety, especially as you move further into the research process.
• We start confidently, but as we research, confidence disappears and we experience uncertainty. Uncertainty is normal and to be expected.
• Uncertainty increases because you encounter new information that doesn’t fit with what you already know or believe.
• After some time, we form a new perspective, a new personal focus, and then we feel better! We needed more than information—we needed a perspective that allowed meaning to be drawn from the new information.

When You Research
• Don’t be surprised. Be prepared:
  – to experience frustration & confusion as you dig in. Remember it will not last.
  – to take a few wrong turns.
  – to refine your research questions.
  – to need to read background material.
  – to document your sources and your process.
  – to examine materials that won’t be used.
  – to be delayed over availability issues.

Note-taking for your Research Papers.
• When you research, do not take extensive notes.
  • You will not need to document basic information that is non-controversial and would be found by looking in most basic sources. But be careful about plagiarism—any use of another person’s ideas or words must be cited.
  • You will need to back up with quotations and or citations anything that requires an authority:
    • information that is not commonly known.
    • unique, apt, pithy, especially effective wording,
    • interpretations,
    • controversial claims,
    • expert opinions,
    • analysis.