

Understanding Your Assignment

Start with reviewing your assignment and its instructions. Be sure to thoroughly read the instructions and make a note of any and all details your instructor has provided.

Ask yourself the following:

- When is the assignment due?
- How long does your paper need to be?
- How many sources are needed?
- What types of sources do you need? (Scholarly journal articles, books, videos, news articles...)
- Where should you look for those sources? (Library databases, Google, social media...)
- Is your topic broad enough to find information as well as narrow enough so that you are not overwhelmed with information?
- If you have questions about research, who should you contact? (your instructor, your librarians, your peers...)
- What kind of assignment is it? (informative, persuasive, analytical, argumentative...)
- What Citation Style are you required to use? (MLA- Modern Language Association, APA- American Psychological Association, or Chicago/ Turabian)
- Do you have an idea of how to organize and outline your paper?
- Who do you contact when you need help writing your paper? (Tutoring Center, your instructor...)
- What is the format of the assignment? (1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12 point font...)

Be sure to look at the details of the assignment, this can ensure that you have a proper starting point and it can give you some ideas on how to begin your research.