Step 1: Deciding on a Topic:

Get assignment and understand all the requirements. Ask others in class about their ideas. Read background sources to see if there’s enough info.

Step 2: Narrowing my topic to a question

Read more background. Write a question to research. Check with instructor. Write sub-questions to break down topic into parts. Make list of keywords related to my topic for searching.

Step 3: Plan my research

Figure out what KINDS of sources I need—books? Articles? Interviews? Plan on calendar how much time I have to research / organize / write paper.

My Search Process

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Find information.

This includes evaluating sources to see if they’re reliable, scholarly.

Take notes, organize.

Think about how different parts fit together, what parts of the research question I’m finding answers to, which I’m not.

Start writing/presentation

Follow MLA or APA for in-text citations and works cited. Make sure my research supports my ideas. Build understanding of what all this info means together. Seeing if I have enough info.

Revising, Thinking About What I Learned

Making sure my ideas are organized and supported. Fixing little errors. Checking format stuff, citation stuff to make sure it’s in right form. Thinking about what I learned about the topic and about research.

Fat arrows: the major direction the process goes. Skinny arrows: how it sometimes loops back to earlier things.