RESEARCHING TIPS 101

Research projects can be overwhelming, but knowing the basics of how to format and construct your approach can be a stepping stone.

1. Select your topic carefully
   - Choose a topic that is relevant to your course and that you have a strong interest in learning more about

2. Use scholarly research to back you up
   - Compile articles from USC library database
   - Utilize Google Scholar

3. Find the most relevant sources
   - Skim the abstracts
   - Remove articles/findings that you can not use
   - Look into other articles referenced in the source

4. Summarize what you have found into notes
   - Jot down main ideas, concepts, or themes (i.e. table, outline)
   - Ask yourself:
     - How can you connect this to your topic?
     - Does this go for or against my topic?
     - Can this provide strong evidence for my topic?

5. Acquire support/know where you can get help
   - Ask professors/TAs for any clarifications on paper
   - Additional support:
     - Librarians (log onto MyUSC, select Libraries, select "Ask a Librarian").
     - Writing Center (https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/)
     - Peer Reviewer (ask a friend or classmate)

6. Avoid becoming overwhelmed and break down your task!
   - Identify your goal
   - Brainstorm task
   - Identify potential barriers
   - Determine helpful strategies
     - Review Kortschak Center handout "How To Break Down a Task"

Reference: https://thecollegeinvestor.com/20345/5-skills-every-college-student-must-develop-to-be-successful/