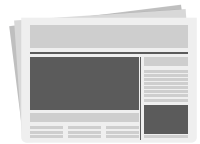# Researching Tips 101

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/