# WRTG 121 Composition II: Researching the Public Experience

## Eastern Michigan University

## Teaching an Outcome: Research Process

**Research Process**

The research process is a necessary component of academic writing in all fields. The process of researching involves establishing your own theories and opinions, comparing your thoughts to those of others, using professional research to support your theories, writing the paper based on the research and properly attributing your sources. The research process fosters the ability to write the research paper according to the conventions of the genre including the analysis and use of secondary research as well as the use of primary research.

**Lesson Plan**

The lesson on the topic of the research process will involve an interactive discussion that will enable students to engage with the process of conducting and collecting research. The discussion will begin with framing the research process as outlined above.

The discussion questions are listed below.

- o How does the research process start?
- o How do you conduct research?
- o How does research play a role in your daily lives?

**Activity: From Google to Essay**

The activity is based on a continuous progression of Googling that will enable students to relate their everyday habits to their academic writing. This activity asks students to first Google to find an answer to their inquiry. Based on the results of this search, students are then asked to compile a list of related questions and keywords which will also be Googled. Students will then be asked to type the same questions into Google Scholar and compare their results. Based on this comparison, students will be asked to discuss their findings first in groups and then as a class in order to evaluate the differences in results. The purpose of this activity is to exhibit to students that their everyday habits of Googling to find answers can be effectively applied to academic research in order to begin the research process.

**Suggested Readings**

Klein, Michael and Shackelford, Kristi. "Beyond Black on White: Document Design and

Formatting in the Writing Classroom", p. 333-338. *Writing Spaces,*
http://writingspaces.org/sites/default/files/klein-and-shackelford--beyond-black-on-
white.pdf. Accessed 2 November 2019.

*Successful Writing,* "The Purpose of Research Writing", section 11.1.
https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/successful-writing/s15-01-the-purpose-of-
research-writin.html. Accessed 2 November 2019.

"Writing Tips: Thesis Statements", *Center for Writing Studies,* University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign, http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/thesis/. Accessed 4
November 2019.