

The research process

- ✓ **Narrow the topic:** naval battles of World War II → the four-day Battle of Midway, or narrower still
- ✓ **Find sources:** research librarians, library databases, and abstracts — an abstract tells you whether an article is relevant
- ✓ **Take notes:** a page per source, headed with author, title and citation; find the source's thesis first; copied words in quotation marks with page numbers; your own thoughts labeled (**me**)
- ✓ **Outline:** a draft thesis, topic sentences, supporting examples, a conclusion
- ✓ **Draft** with quotations and citations in place
- ✓ **Revise:** read it aloud — transitions, evidence, organization — then edit for clarity, sentence structure, grammar and punctuation

Evaluating sources

- ✓ **Primary:** made at the time, or by someone involved
Autobiographies, journals, letters, diaries, eyewitness reports, original literature, art and music
- ✓ **Secondary:** made after the fact, interpreting primary sources
Book reviews, biographies, literary criticism, history books, critiques
- ✓ **Peer-reviewed journals:** experts checked the work before it was published
- ✓ **Most reliable online:** .edu and .gov sites and library databases; check any other site against two or three more
- ✓ **Check that a source is current:** Victor Frankenstein learned from long-discredited books
- ✓ **Contested topics carry bias; objective** writing gives verifiable facts, **subjective** writing opinion (/ *think*, good or bad)

MLA and APA

	MLA	APA
Used in	Literature, cultural studies, philosophy, religion, theater, communication	Science, psychology, education, business, engineering
In the text	Author and page, no comma: (<i>Lee 5</i>)	Author, comma, year: (<i>Thompson, 2003</i>); just (<i>2003</i>) if the name is in the sentence
List at the end	Works Cited	References
Author	Full name, surname first: Iparraguirre, Sylvia.	Surname and initials: Wallace-Sanders, K.
Date	Near the end of the entry	In parentheses, right after the author: (2011).
Book	Author. <i>Title</i> . Translated by..., Publisher, year.	Author. (Year). <i>Title</i> . Publisher.
Article	Author. "Article Title." <i>Journal</i> , vol. #, no. #, year, pp. #—#.	Author. (Year). Article title. <i>Journal</i> , volume(issue), pages. DOI

Every citation appears twice: in the text where you quote or paraphrase, and in the list at the end.