

Library Research – Day 2

Your next step will be to focus on one particular problem/specific article, and to find background information on that topic. The more you know about a topic or problem the easier it will be to ask a relevant and interesting question. If you've really looked into a topic and asked questions of current researchers, then you will be better able to identify questions that have yet to be asked or that need more research. Look at the 10 articles that you reviewed. What interests you the most? Pick one research project/problem/specific topic that you would like to research in more detail. Your research on this topic should lead you to your investigative question and the experiment that you will be designing.

What are the minimal requirements?

- **A copy of the specific** science daily/newspaper article that you chose. Include an MLA citation and five facts that you learned about your problem/specific topic.
- **1 web-site** discussing the problem/specific topic (not advertisements) – must be published by a reputable organization or author. You must include an MLA citation and a minimum of five important facts that you learned from the web-site about your problem/specific topic.
- **1 Additional Newspaper article** from web-sites such as Science Daily, Science News, Science in the Headlines, or local newspapers. You must include a copy of the article, an MLA citation and a minimum of five facts that you learned about your problem/specific topic from the article.
- **1 Encyclopedia Article** on a concept related to your selected topic/idea. You must include an MLA citation and a minimum of five facts that you learned about your problem/specific topic from the article.
- **A written e-mail to a scientist** who is directly involved in the research you are interested in. You must introduce yourself and the project “Designing an Experiment”, explain your interest in their research, and ask them what they feel are some of the important questions being asked by scientists in their field of study? You must make a copy of this e-mail and any responses.

Honors Requirement:

- 1-2 Full-Text Journal Articles, from magazines such as Discover, Scientific American, Science, Nature, or other reputable science publications.

What is Next?

Choose an investigative question.

A strong investigative question:

- Will probe a matter of considerable importance.
- Can not be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.”
- Must be relevant and connected to a problem or issue of importance.
- Must be interesting to the researcher.

Design a hypothesis based on evidence.

You will look at all of your research and come up with an answer to your investigative question that is based on the research you have gathered.