Section:
*Getting Started with Research*

Lesson:
*Research Process*

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the steps in the research process
- Develop a plan for a research paper
- Recognize the iterative nature of the research process

**Components:**

- Video - Research Process
- Video - How to Narrow your Topic
- Quiz - Research Process

**Introduction (real world relevance):**

Research is a process that takes time, patience, and practice. Learning the process of research will help your project get off to a good start and help you choose a solid topic. The research process also applies outside of academic work, including job searches once you graduate.

**Discussion Topics:**

**Assignment Requirements**

Using either a real assignment or an imaginary assignment, have the students discuss the assignment requirements. Have them brainstorm in small groups about potential “unwritten” requirements, such as the time spent on various assignment activities, preparation, background research for unfamiliar concepts, etc.

**Controlled Vocabulary**

Iterative nature of the research process: As researcher uncovers information, he/she may need to revise the topic or repeat searches with updated search terms. As the researcher
outlines the argument, he/she may identify additional aspects for investigation and research.

Activities:

Research Project Plan
Have students create an overall plan and timeline for a research project. Have students outline the project and research process in a similar way as they would for a paper.

Controlled Vocabulary
Have students identify two or more databases or related tools. Students should write out their thesis, keywords, and synonyms. Within the database, have students utilize features related to controlled vocabulary to locate useful terminology. Students should make a list or chart of their keywords and the corresponding controlled vocabulary terms.

More Resources:

Research Project Calculator - https://rpc.elm4you.org/
Includes templates for writing assignments, oral presentations, and video assignments. Project funded by Minitex. Calculator also available for download.