5-STEP HOW-TO RESEARCH PROCESS

A brief overview of the research process in 5-STEPs. For more details and access to research resources, visit libguides.uta.edu/researchprocess

DEVELOP YOUR TOPIC
Choose a topic that interests you and holds your attention. What do you have a strong opinion about? Did you read a story recently that interested you? Do you have a personal issue that you want to learn more about? What do you spend time talking with your friends about?

LOCATE INFORMATION
Research involves using a wide variety of sources: scholarly articles, books, popular periodicals, newspapers, datasets, websites, etc. Learn about the various sources, why you would use them, and how to find them. Talk with your subject librarian or a research coach for help.

EVALUATE SOURCES
It is important to find reliable and appropriate information for your assignment. What is the expertise of the author? Can you verify the facts in another source? Are references provided? Is the source well-written and organized? Is the language emotional or objective? Is it opinion or fact-based?

WRITE
Start writing early. Use writing as a means of exploration and discovery to organize and coalesce your ideas and thoughts. Do not write your essay from beginning to end, but start with what you are ready to write and then figure out where it fits into the essay.

CITE
It’s important to cite your sources to demonstrate you are a responsible scholar, to give credit to other researchers, to acknowledge their ideas, and to allow your readers to track down your sources for further research.