Fullerton College
Library

Reading 56

Prof. Piazza

10/5/17

Habits of Mind and Library Research







Persistence

Don't give up when searching for information. Sometimes you need to experiment with different keywords and databases before you find what you need.

Remaining determined in your research will produce better results; and an overall improved assignment or paper.



Striving for Accuracy

Don't settle for information that seems biased, inaccurate or incomplete. Find high-quality information using Library materials and reliable Internet resources.

Remember, just because you find something online doesn't mean it's true!



Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition)

Good research starts with well thought-out research topics and keywords. Creating a mental map of what you are searching for (and why), will help you navigate the vast number of search results produced by Library databases.



Questioning and Posing Problems

Good research often starts off with a good research question. If you're having trouble finding information, try constructing your search around a research question (instead of just a general topic). This will help you come up with more specific keywords and phrases.

Example: For a general topic like "global warming," try creating a research question that adds some specifics:

What effect has global warming had on the California coastlines?



Taking Responsible Risks

Don't be afraid to experiment with your search terms if you're not finding the information you need. There are no penalties for changing keywords, trying a different database or using a different search strategy.

Remember: Good research doesn't always progress exactly according to plan. Sometimes you need to experiment, adapt to new situations and improvise.



Thinking Interdependently

Searching for information doesn't have to be done alone. Asking for assistance from a Librarian, instructor or one of your classmates is sometimes the best method for moving closer to your research goals.

Remember: In college there is an entire community of professionals available to help you with your assignments. Don't be afraid to ask for help! It can save you time and help you earn better grades.



Remaining Open to Continuous Learning

The Fullerton College Library contains endless numbers of books, eBooks, articles and more. Beyond just working on assignments, remain curious and open to everything that you can find at a Library. Once you get in the habit, you will naturally want to discover more about the topics that interest you.

TRR, 9/28/17