

Navigating the Mess

A collaborative approach to mapping the research process

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HUNTER COLLEGE
libraries

Introduction

Who are the students?

- 10 sections, First Year Seminar (FYS) one-credit class (~250 students)
- “Scholar cohorts”
- >.01% of our student body

What did we want them to do?

- Discuss the elements of the research process & people who could help
- Design their own process map
- Compare their map to others
- Create a shared map through discussion and collaboration

First Year Seminar - Research Process Worksheet

STEPS	How do you define it? What does it mean to you?	How long do you think it will take?	Will you have to engage in this step more than once? How many times?
Writing			
Revising			
Searching			
Reading			
Research question development			
Your Choice			

HELPERS	What does this person do? How can this person help you?	When should you ask them for help?	Will you ask them for help more than once?
Friend			
Professor			
Librarian			
Writing tutor			
Your choice			

Writing

- Putting thoughts on paper
- putting info together in cohesive way
- expressing opinion

Revising

- correcting
- fixing errors
- grammar
- structure / flow
- word choice
- cleaning up
- removing weak evidence + replacing it w/ stronger

Searching

- find outside sources to enhance writing
- find credible resources
- literature searches, what others have written (secondary lit)

Reading

- analyze sources
- determine relevance
- find quotes
- read abstract
- read deeper
- outlining
- note-taking

RQ/topic

- develop claim
- most important idea
- starting point
- main idea
- express opinion
- derived from reading
- brainstorm ideas
- not too vague / specific
- original idea

Analyzing

- why does it matter?
- does it matter?

Outlining

- organizing
- structuring

Friend

- edit
- grammar
- word choice
- brainstorm
- feedback
- anecdotes / reactions
- bounce ideas off
- outside opinion

Prof

- explain assignment
- ensure response to prompt
- guidance, what to do next
- parameters for assignments

Internet

- research advice

Sibling

- advice
- perspective

LIBRARIAN

- referrals to resources
- help w/ searching
- find books / articles
- specific, related to topics
- topic
- RQ development
- ways to use evidence
- help w/ reading

Writing tutor

- format + structure
- RQ
- small edits

Classmate

- understand assignments

Mentor

- know classes / requirements
- advice

Your turn!

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