Why Do Research?

We do research for the following objectives:

1. Research teaches methods of discovery.
2. Research teaches investigative skills.
3. Research develops inquiry-based techniques.
4. Research builds career skills.
5. Research teaches critical thinking.
6. Research teaches logic.
7. Research teaches the basic ingredients of argument.

Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of claiming the words or ideas of another person as your own. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the ethical standards of academic writing, and most colleges and universities have strict penalties, including academic probation or expulsion, for students who are guilty of plagiarism. The intentional acts of academic dishonesty are the most blatant forms of plagiarism. Unintentional plagiarism, however, is still a violation of academic integrity. Unacknowledged use of another person's sentences, phrases, or terminology is plagiarism, so provide a citation and use quotation marks to show exactly where you are drawing on others' work. Similarly, unacknowledged use of another person's ideas, research, or approach is also plagiarism, so write careful paraphrases.

Avoiding Unintentional Plagiarism

The following guidelines will help you avoid unintentional plagiarism.

1. **Citation. Let readers know when you borrow from a source by introducing a quotation or paraphrase with the name of its author.**
2. **Quotation marks. Enclose within quotation marks all quoted words, phrases, and sentences.**

3. **Paraphrase. Provide a citation to indicate the source of a paraphrase just as you do for quotation.**
4. **Parenthetical citations and notes. Use one of the academic documentation styles (MLA, APA, CMS, or CSE) to provide specific in-text citations for each source according to the conventions of the discipline in which you are writing.**
5. **Works cited or references pages. Provide a complete bibliography entry at the end of your paper for every source you use, conforming to the standards of the documentation style you are using.**