Research Scheduler

Step 1: Get Started!
WHEN? Weeks 1-2
Be sure to:
- Read your assignment carefully and be sure that you understand your professor’s expectations. If anything is unclear, ask your professor!
- Get familiar with expectations for academic papers: http://bit.ly/1OlOcz0
- Add the dates from this planner to your calendar.

Step 2: Pick a Topic
WHEN? Weeks 3-4
Need topic ideas?
- Try these pre-writing questions: http://bit.ly/1j6BTwQ
- Check out Pierce’s guide to choosing a topic: http://bit.ly/1kDpjqz
- Ask your instructor for advice.
- Talk to a friend.
- Look for interesting stories in a newspaper or magazine.

Step 3: Build a Research Strategy
WHEN? Weeks 3-4
Building a research strategy means knowing where you’ll want to look for information. This depends on the types of sources you will need to use.
- When to Use Books vs. Articles: http://bit.ly/1HUT6oV
- What’s the Difference Between Scholarly Journals and Popular Magazines?: http://bit.ly/1S2Q02p

Step 4: Topic Overview
WHEN? Weeks 4-5
Use encyclopedias and other reference books to get an overview of your topic! Just log in with your Student ID # and PIN.
- Funk & Wagnall’s New World Encyclopedia: http://bit.ly/1ltJKXd

Step 5: Find Useful Books and E-Books
WHEN? Weeks 5-7
These links will help you to find book and e-books, locate books on the shelves using call numbers, and evaluate the credibility of books you find:
- Understanding Call Numbers: http://bit.ly/1sRHJCF

Step 6: Find Useful Articles
WHEN? Weeks 6-8
Find articles for FREE in Pierce’s databases by logging in with your Student ID # and PIN.
  • Databases by Subject: http://bit.ly/1S2YSoH
  • Choosing a Database: http://bit.ly/1LkNGOL
  • Search Techniques: http://bit.ly/1NCxJvW

**Step 7: Find Trustworthy Websites**
WHEN? Weeks 7-9
Some websites are more credible than others. Here’s how to tell which online sources you can trust:
  • Evaluating Internet Sources: http://bit.ly/1SBSu81
  • How to Tell if a Website is Credible: http://bit.ly/1kslgem
  • What’s Wrong With Wikipedia: http://bit.ly/1qxSzXP

**Step 8: Outline Your Paper**
WHEN? Week 10
Outlining your paper will help you to organize your thoughts. Learn more:
  • Outlining Strategies: http://bit.ly/1S2Zpa4
  • Planning and Writing a Research Paper: http://bit.ly/1HXgSlu

**Step 9: First Draft**
WHEN? Weeks 11-13
When you’re ready to start your paper, try these resources for writing help:
  • Essay Structure: http://bit.ly/1Ph2Ef0
  • Synthesizing Your Research: http://bit.ly/1kDxIub
  • On Campus Tutoring: http://bit.ly/1ltPgZX
  • Pierce Writing Workshops: http://bit.ly/1Qtn6L7
  • Purdue OWL Formatting and Style Guides: http://bit.ly/1e51kVw

**Step 10: Final Draft**
WHEN? Weeks 14-15
Before handing in your paper, make sure to cite your sources correctly and avoid plagiarism!
  • Citing Your Sources: http://bit.ly/1SX1KUW
  • Why Citations Matter: http://bit.ly/1PNoI0L
  • What is Plagiarism?: http://bit.ly/1wWF7sS

**For More Info:**
http://library.piercecollege.edu/home
Reference Desk: (818) 710-2833