



# Library Exercise

University Library



## Managing What You Find: Research Journal

### Objective

You will learn how to select, evaluate, and manage the sources you find during the research process by keeping a record of your research. This research journal will help you to keep track of what sources you are using for evidence to support your thesis, and why.

### Organizing your journal

Your research paper requires five (5) sources:

3 scholarly/peer reviewed journal articles

1 newspaper article

1 other format: book, magazine, media production (documentary), website.

### Format

You will be using these references to support your thesis statement. For each reference above you will create an individual **annotation** and **format** these in your journal like so:

- Attach a copy of the item with a cover sheet for each resource you use: if an article, photocopy the entire article; if a book, photocopy the library catalog record. See me if in another format.
- Make sure the citation is in **APA format** at the top of each cover sheet.

Read the entire article, scan the book, etc. and say briefly in your cover sheet:

1. What **keywords** did you use to find the item? What **database or web page** did you find the item in (list the URL)?
2. If you used a library catalog or a subscription database, what **subject headings** are listed? What subject areas do you think cover your topic best?
3. What assumptions does the author of your source make?
4. How do the ideas in the source compare with those in your other sources?
5. **How does this resource support your thesis?** How can the author's ideas be used as evidence for your paper?
6. Reflect on what about the source will be useful for your paper. Be as detailed as possible!
7. Copy two **quotations** (include page number) that you will use as evidence in your paper.
8. **Paraphrase** one particularly good idea that you can use from the source as evidence in your paper.
9. What is your own reaction to the source? Reflect.