The Research Paper Process

1. Start with a general topic
   - Come up with a question about that topic.

2. Do background research to gain understanding.
   - Who is involved or impacted?
   - What are the various perspectives or arguments about this topic?

3. Identify related events.

4. Answer the question and create a (working) thesis statement!

- Gather sources/evidence to support your argument and identify opposing arguments.
- Evaluate sources and ensure they match your instructors’ expectations.
- Organize your sources and keep track of citation information as you go.
- Identify any gaps in information and gather additional sources.
- Select the sources you will use as evidence.
- Create citations for your sources.

These steps may need to be repeated.

Contact information:
Cecelia Cole, Associate Academic Librarian
UW-Barron County
cecelia.cole@uwc.edu