Designing successful research assignments: strategies for success

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Think, pair, share

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What is one research assignment you've assigned that you felt worked well and why?

Think, pair, share

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What is one research assignment that has been challenging or ineffective for you students? Identify some possible pitfalls that the students may have encountered.

Tips

- **Address Learning Goals Related to the Research Process**

- **Be Clear about Your Expectations and Criteria for Assessment**

- **Scaffolding your Assignment Brings Focus to the Research Process**

- **Devote Class Time to Discussion of the Assignment in Progress**

- **Test Your Assignment**

- **Collaborate with Your Librarians**

Address Learning Goals Related to the Process

Be clear about your expectations & criteria for the assignment

Start at the source

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Thinking critically about source requirements

Activity:

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Think of a research assignment you use. On each post-it note write a source you require. On the back write why you require this source.

Small group discussion

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What are the benefits of providing specific source requirements? What are some of the drawbacks?

Be sure to define your terms

Make sure your students know what you mean when you specify categories like:

"Academic"
"Scholarly"
"Peer-reviewed"
"Credible"

Format
"Electronic"
"Online"
"Monograph"

Place Based - "Library resource"

Scaffolding Your Assignment Brings Focus to the Research Process

- When possible, scaffold the research component into the process in order to ensure adequate attention is given to the research process. (i.e., annotated bibliography assignment due before a research paper), source analysis exercise, etc.

- Consider embedding a research log into the assignment

A few more things to consider in assignment design...

Devote class time to discussion of the assignment in progress

- Visit the library with your class

- Subject liaisons are happy to collaborate with you to provide a research session that will make the research process even more effective for your midshipmen

Test your assignment

Collaborate with your librarians

Contact your [subject specialist](#) to see how we can help!

Why?

- Collections experts
- Subject matter experts in information literacy

A few helpful resources

Research Assignment Design: A Guide for Faculty

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How do we apply these steps?

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Presentation Sources

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Thank you!

Questions?

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