On Research—

1. Research Means Research
   When writing a research essay, focus on doing as much research as you can before you commit to a thesis statement. Read several articles and journals on your topic. A great way to save time in finding direct quotes or in-text citations is either to underline, highlight, or take notes on important facts as you read. The more you read, the better you understand your topic and, as a result, your argument will be stronger.

2. Working Thesis
   Once you identify a topic and focus, you will need to develop a “working” thesis statement, which means that this thesis may change or be expanded as you continue to research and draft. You will be able to review your notes to support your claims. Remember, the more you read, the more you will have to say. Once you have completed your research and drafting, then you can polish your “working” thesis toward a finalized one.

3. Plagiarism
   Be careful about plagiarism. If you did not generate the idea or perform the research on your own, then cite the source! Only if information is common knowledge among the general public, then no citation is needed.

4. References and Works Cited Page
   When compiling your Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page, make sure to list sources in alphabetical order according to the author’s last name or first main word of titles with no authors. Create hanging indents after the first line of each source entry.
   
   Quick Guide to References/Works Cited page, APA style:
   https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

5. Did you Know There’s a Rule for Quotes within Quotes?
   When quoting someone who quotes someone else, put the embedded quote in single quotation marks, then close the quotation with the doubles you started with.
   
   Example:
   
   According to Hoffman, “Roberts indicates that ‘new research confirms past theories,’ but he fails to point out that new research does not measure the same indicators.”
   
   Hoffman is being quoted entirely from double quotation to double quotation; Roberts is being quoted inside of Hoffman’s article from single quotation to single quotation.

   In other words, use the double quotes on the outside and use single quotes inside the double quotes.

6. Never End a Paragraph with a Quote.
   It is important for the reader to know why you are using a quote. Rather than simply dropping in one without explanation, explain why the quote is important and/or how it defends your claim/argument.