

WHY RESEARCH?

Research is at the heart of every academic curriculum, and it will show up in your classes in obvious and not so obvious ways. But that’s not the only reason you should know how to research. Why is it so important to learn how to research?

1. **It’s a real-life skill!** The research you do now will prepare you for the day when your job depends on your ability to find answers for yourself or to evaluate the answers of others.
2. **Knowing how to research helps you understand what information you can trust.** You won’t fall prey to unverified “facts” because you’ll know the difference between unsupported assertions and verified sources.
3. **It is the most exciting part of your education!** OK—this may be idealistic, but research can be as fun as solving a mystery or a puzzle. You can experience the excitement of discovering something no one else knows.

Mini-assignment—Researching research in the workplace.

Professionals do research in the workplace because they need to answer a question in order to accomplish some goal.

The goal for this mini-assignment is to find out the answer to this question:

Is research really that important in the workplace?

Find an adult who has a job that you think you might like to have. Not the perfect job, maybe, but one you can see yourself doing someday. Ask her about research on her job. Don’t stop with activities that she calls research—ask about any tasks that require her to find out something she didn’t know to accomplish some goal. Ask how much these skills matter to be good at her job. Share the results of your research with your classmates.