Research Log

Before coming to your ENG 204 library session, you are asked to submit a Research Log – a record of your research process – to your instructor. You will refer to this during the library session.

It is important that you begin your Research Log early and update it regularly.

Use this Research Log to keep track of your research. Each time you visit the Research Help Desk, you will be asked to produce your Research Log, either in hard copy, or electronic form. The Research Log will help you stay organized and will also allow others to see the decisions you have made in finding sources.

Your Name:
Your ENG 204 Instructor’s Name:

**Define Task**

1. Select a broad topic for investigation and enter it in the box below.

   **e.g. Texting**

2. Consider a more focused aspect of the topic you wish to explore. Write it down.

   **e.g. Texting as a form of communication in education**

3. Before you start to investigate your topic – what do you already know about this topic?

   **e.g. Texting is a major form of personal communication between students. It includes many abbreviations which are quick and easy to use. There is debate as to whether students should be able to include text-speak in their formal research papers**
4. Based on what you know, which aspects of your topic do you need to know more about? Write down two statements about what you hope to research

   e.g.

   1. The influence of texting on students’ ability to write formal English
   2. How the English Language has changed over time

5. What do you hope to find out? Write out your research question or thesis statement in the box below.

   e.g. Research question: What changes have occurred in the way young people use the English language as a result of texting? Texting does not hinder literacy and should be embraced by teachers as a new form of creative expression - acceptable in formal papers.

   Thesis statement: Texting does not hinder the development of literacy and should be embraced by teachers as a new form of creative expression.

6. Analyze your topic. What information do you need to support your thesis (argument)?

   e.g. Need to find academic journal articles discussing literacy and mobile phone technology within the context of education or linguistics.
   Need studies written by educators promoting the use of mobile phones in the classroom.
   Need to find a good overview of how the English Language has changed (for the better) over time.