What it means to ‘research’ when writing for publication
Foundational Assumptions about Writing at the Professional Level

- Originality is contextual
- Creating an idea is an iterative process
- Creating an idea is an individual, ‘holistic’ process
What does it mean to ‘conduct research’?
Contextual, Iterative, Individual

- Creating an idea is an iterative process
  - As you write, you will come across people who have already argued what you’ve argued, or
  - You might realize you need to go back and research some facet you don’t know much about (i.e., a historical moment or theory)

- Creating an idea is an individual, ‘holistic’ process
Examining, Categorizing, Organizing Research

- Start broad. Go narrow. Return to broad as needed.
  - List major journals, seminal authors & books

- Create a narrative, or map of the conversation.
  - The narrative that shows up in your article might be narrow and precise, but having the larger narrative influences the quality of your writing
Examining, Categorizing, Organizing Research

- Create your own groupings for how the research fits together

  - When written, type of research used as evidence, audience, purpose, types or lines of argument

- Book introductions are excellent models for this
Contextual, Iterative, Individual: Thesis Statements

- If you don’t have a complex understanding of your topic or audience, consider using a question as your thesis initially.

- Be willing to revise your thesis to better mirror your final draft.
  - Check your verbs and key phrases to make sure they are sufficiently specific and match the ones used throughout your paper.

- You do not always have to advocate for grand change. Try thinking more in terms of subtle influence on your target audience.

- Think practical and realistic. Understand the bureaucratic processes and entities invested.
Examining, Categorizing, Organizing Research

- Audience awareness is critical

- Be willing to go back and research more