



ARMY UNIVERSITY
PRESS

***What it means to
'research' when writing
for publication***

Army University's Multi-Media Publishing Enterprise



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