Research and Finding
Your Perspective
REMEMBER, RESEARCH PAPERS ARE MADE UP OF THREE COMPONENTS:

1) What you already know
2) What experts on the topic know
3) How what you think about the topic compares to what the experts say about the topic
**Topic:** iPhone use in the classroom

**List:**

- Teachers usually get upset when students use their iPhones in class
- My fellow classmates text during class
- Some students use their iPhones to take a picture of the notes on the whiteboard
- Some teachers are starting to encourage students to use their iPhones in class
- I have heard the phone referred to as an extension of the hand
- I often wish I could do more of my online work via my iPhone.
THEN MAKE A LIST OF QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE TOPIC

**Topic**: iPhone use in the classroom

**List of questions**

- Is there a productive way to use iPhones in class?
- Will instructors using iPhones in class make the iPhone less appealing to students?
- Will someone soon invent technology that is even more useful and appealing for students than the iPhone?
2 RESEARCH WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

► Ask your instructor what types of sources he or she finds acceptable for this topic.
   For literary research Scholarly Journals are the most acceptable.
   For a political science or current issue topic, national news sources may be more appropriate.

► Contact your librarian and ask for an orientation over the online resources (databases, etc.)

► Avoid google definitions, online study guides, online free student essays, Wikipedia, dictionaries, and encyclopedias, and any site with a suspicious-sounding title—like “cheat.com.”
First, summarize each source to help you understand what the source is all about. Be prepared to fill in the blanks:

__________, the author of this source, (argues, explains, informs) about ________________. The author’s main point about this topic is ________________. The author supports this point by ________________, ________________, and ________________. Overall, the author has a (strong, weak) point. This source (supports, contradicts, or provides a new perspective) to the point I wish to make in my research paper.
KEEP TRACK OF SOURCES

- Print off the sources and highlight the quotes that are relevant to your topic.
- Keep track of works cited/reference info.
- Keep a research notebook: Have a section of the notebook for each source. At the top of the section, write down the works cited info for that source (APA, MLA). Under the works cited, include your summary. After that, write the quotes you want to use from the source.
COMPARE WHAT YOU THINK TO WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

- On the hard copy of your sources, write marginal notes, commenting on how you feel about what the experts are saying. Do you agree? Do you disagree? Is the information surprising? Is it interesting? Does it make sense?

- Revisit your original lists of what you know and your research questions, and see if you can use the information to add to or answer any of the items on these lists.

- Keep in mind that your goal is to convey your own ideas and to use what the experts say as evidence that you have explored the topic thoroughly.