

# **STARTING THE RESEARCH PROJECT: EXPECTATIONS BEFORE LOCATING TEXTS**

---

Rutgers University Writing Centers  
Plangere Writing Center ♦ Livingston Writing Center ♦ Douglass/Cook Writing Center

Writers who talk about "research" usually refer to a process of exploring the context of an issue - discovering what other writers have said about the issue, and adding their own voice to the discussion. One way to understand the extent of your topic and the scope of your source texts is to articulate what you expect to find in your research.

By thinking about your own expectations of what you will find when you read your source texts, you prepare yourself for a real discussion with them; as you read, be sure to take notes about how they live up to, exceed, or differ from what you expected.

**Before you go to the library, make a list of five to ten attitudes, ideas or opinions you think you will encounter in your research. List them below:**