

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WORKSHEET¹

The Scientific Method

1. Observe and describe a phenomenon.
2. Formulate a research question.
3. Turn that research question into a hypothesis (best guess)
4. Use hypotheses to make predictions
5. Use research/experiments to generate results that confirm or deny predictions (triangulate sources²)
6. Modify the hypothesis to account for the results
7. Repeat until results match hypothesis or abandon hypothesis.

1. Write down your research question.
2. Write down your hypothesis (your best guess as to how you will answer your research question).
3. Use mapping to develop a research methodology that describes 2-5 major steps and 2-5 minor steps for each major step. (Please use another sheet of paper).
4. Collect and triangulate information that confirms or denies your hypothesis. (Please write down your sources on another sheet of paper).
5. Modify your hypothesis to account for the information you collected.
6. Repeat steps 3-6 until results match your hypothesis or you abandon your hypothesis.

¹ Adapted from Dr. Richard Johnson-Sheehan, Purdue University

² Remember that to triangulate, you need three different sources of data. They include **electronic sources** (websites, CD-ROMs, listserves, blogs, TV, radio, film); **print sources** (books, journals, magazines, newspapers, government publications, reference materials, microform/microfiche); or **empirical sources** (experiments, surveys, interviews, field observations, ethnographies, case studies).