

STEPS IN THE RESEARCH PAPER WRITING PROCESS

I.PREWRITING

- **Finding a Topic**
 - **Select an interesting subject.**
 - **Think about your subject. Use the basic 5W/H (Who, what, when, where, why, how) questions:** *I already know. . ., I want to find out WHO. . ., I want to learn WHEN..., I want to know WHERE. . ., I want to understand WHY. . ., I want to Find out HOW...*
 - **Do a brief Web search or an encyclopedia review to give you an overview of your subject**
- **Limit your subject! Zero in on a specific, limited topic you can adequately write about in a 5-10 page paper.**
- **Write a WORKING thesis statement that states what you believe your research will prove. NOTE: your original thesis statement may change as you do more research.**

II.SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION

- **Use the LIBRARY**
 - **Search sources such as: card catalog or online catalog, periodical indexes, specialized reference books, CD-ROMs, online databases**
- **Use your COMMUNITY**
 - **Search world wide web and online services, museums, historical societies, government offices, TV and radio, video stores**
- **EVALUATE your sources:**
 - **Use the 4R Test:** **Relevant?** (*Directly relates to your topic*)
Recent? (*Current enough to be important*)
Reliable? (*Accurate, respected, trustworthy*)
Representative? (*Presents opposing viewpoints, Even if stressing one position*)
- **Keep a SOURCE LIST**
 - **List every source you use, Assign each source a number, Record all publishing information for later use in your in-text documentation and Works Cited Page.**