**Thesis Paper Research Method**

**Steps**

1. **Tentatively identify the topic/subject for your research.**
2. **Do some basic research about the topic.  This will give you an idea of what aspect of the  topic you wish to explore.**
3. **Formulate a thesis statement.  We will do a lot of work on how to write a good thesis statement.  If you are not sure how to write a thesis statement, simply have a focused direction.  Figure out what it is that you want to prove about your topic and work from there.**
4. **Find as much information you can about your topic. Consult books, magazines, newspapers, and the internet. Conduct interviews, watch documentaries etc.**
5. **Keep a detailed list of the sources you use in your research.  Record all information according the *Chicago Manual of Style*.**
6. **Research and brainstorm to prepare a list of the points (arguments) you will make to prove your thesis statement.**
7. **Select one of the sources and begin your reading.  Make detailed notes as you go. Record any personal thoughts you may have.**
8. **Repeat step 7 for all of your sources.**
9. **Review your thesis statement.  Does it accurately reflect the information you have found? If not, restate your thesis statement.  It is easier to change a thesis statement than it is to start your research all over again.**
10. **When you feel that you have enough information, write up a detailed essay plan/outline.**
11. **Begin writing your first draft.  There is no right way to write a draft.  You do not have to follow a special order.  Just write out your paragraphs in whatever order works for you.  You can worry about organization later.**
12. **With a peer, review your paper for content.  Make sure that your editor clearly answers questions you may have.  Your editor should be looking for: content, substance, form, interest, impact, a clear and well-developed thesis statement.**
13. **Prepare a second draft.**
14. **Edit your second draft.**
15. **Prepare a final draft (must be typed).  Be sure that you have accurately followed the *Chicago Manual of Style.***
16. **Proof-read.**
17. **Prepare a bibliography page.**
18. **Prepare a title page (this last step may be done earlier…more info to come)**