

Evaluating the Research Process

Now that you've finished your paper, take some time to evaluate your experience in the research process. Think about the following questions and *write down your answers in complete sentences*. It will help us know how to improve the research and paper writing process at Ravenscroft, and help you think about what works for your writing. Thanks!

Task Definition

1. How did you choose your topic? Did you have to alter your topic at any stage during the research process? Why? What did you do?

2. What were your research questions? Did you find adequate information to answer them? Did you answer them fully? Do you think they were of an appropriate scope for your assignment?

Information Seeking Strategies and Location, Access, and Use of Information

3. How did you find your resources? Did your topic affect where you would find resources?

Did you use books? Did you browse the shelves around your topic? Do you feel more confident in your ability to use the library? What about the university library setting?

Did you use databases? Which ones worked well for you? Did you find things easily? How does this compare with Internet resources that are free to all?

4. Was your note taking strategy effective? What did you do? What might you change next time?

Synthesis – Constructing the Research Product

5. Did you balance your sources with many sources instead of using just one book? This is how you create a real research paper. Was this easy or difficult? Why?

6. Did you write an effective thesis statement?

What elements helped your writing? What might make it easier next time? Consider also what about your thesis makes it effective or ineffective. If you find it is ineffective, you can always change it!

7. How helpful is your outline? How difficult was it to organize? What did you do well, and what could you do better?

8. How do you feel about how you worked quotes and paraphrases into your paper?

Was it easy to match up the quotes with the parenthetical and works cited entry? Now that you know what to do, can you do it in all of your classes?

9. What would you do differently next time?

10. What could your teachers/librarian do differently next time?