## THE RESEARCH PROCESS ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ST STAGE

**UNDERSTAND** 

THE

**ASSIGNMENT** 

Know the deadlines; length & type of essay; number & types of resources expected; and citation style required.

**SELECTING** 

A TOPIC

**7ND STAGE** 

encyclopedias.

Begin with preliminary reading to select a topic. Discover what information is available and if the topic is interesting to you. Preliminary reading sources include general internet searches, Wikipedia, and

WRITING THE RESEARCH **QUESTION** 

RD STAGE

The research question captures the main idea of the research at hand. It allows you to specify the exact aspect of the topic you will be exploring.

COLLECTING **SCHOLARLY** SOURCES

**∠**TH STAGE

Search electronic resources using search terms and Boolean operators to identify primary and secondary sources for your research. Evaluate the resources for their origin, purpose, content, value, and limitations. Build a

**TAKING** 

working bibliography.

NOTES

CREATING YOUR OUTLINE

7TH STAGE

An outline aids in the writing

process by organizing your

arguments, presenting your

material in a logical form,

among your ideas.

and showing relationships

REVIEW.

REVISE,

**SUBMIT** 

Check spelling, grammar,

Confirm that the thesis

position; the main points

support the thesis; and

evidence. Submit your

paper by the deadline!

WRITING

THE DRAFT

Using your outline as a guide,

your paper with the thesis in

mind. Write the introduction

and conclusion last. Refer to

the working bibliography and

add in-text citations. Remove

unused resources from your

begin writing the body of

**8**TH STAGE

bibliography.

punctuation, and formatting.

statement summarizes your

there is sufficient research &

9TH STAGE

6TH STAGE

**CREATING** 

YOUR THESIS

**STATEMENT** 

sets out to answer your thesis statement is not a known fact.

Your thesis statement research question. It expresses your main idea or position. The

5TH STAGE

Accurate note taking allows you to avoid plagiarism. Summarize, paraphrase, or directly quote the thoughts and ideas of the materials you will be using as textual evidence in your research paper.

