

## Initiate Research

Research is never easy but here are a few tips to make it a little less painful.

1. **Know your subject.** You should review previous research in the field. Understand how the field has developed and changed. Focus on recent research. Read literature reviews.
2. **Look for gaps,** questions, or problems in your field. When you find one try to turn it into a hypothesis.
3. When you have a **hypothesis,** write a short plan, proposal, or outline. This should introduce the problem or the question, indicate the methods that you will use, and survey previous writing on the topic.
4. Think about the **practical requirements** of your project and the financial implications. If you want to study climate change, is it really feasible to travel to the Arctic to study the plight of the polar bear? When collecting and processing data be prepared for mistakes and obstacles. Your research will nearly always take longer than you expect.
5. **Collaboration diversity:** It is imperative to cooperate with researchers within your departments, college, and other colleges within your institution. Studies have shown that interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary as well as inter-organization, local and global collaborations have determinable effect on the success of the research and its probability for acceptance for publication and the number of citations attained.