McNair Scholars Program
Junior Cohort
Research and Writing
An Introduction to the Basics
Dr. Ellen Broidy
Review of Spring Discussion

- Why research: what does it mean to conduct research?
- Topics/questions/methods:
  - What is a topic? What do you want/plan to research?
  - What is a question? What aspect(s) of a topic do you plan to investigate?
  - What is a method? What are the possible ways to locate information on your topic? How might you weigh evidence?
The Research Plan

- You have your question! Where to begin:
  - Review “final” question with your mentor
  - Determine initial research steps
  - Determine what you know? Assess what you need to know
  - Review McNair summer syllabus; check important deadlines
  - Organize your timeline; be sure to set aside sufficient time for research, writing, revising
Structure of the Paper

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Review of the Literature
- Topics/Questions/Hypotheses
- Research Methods
- Research Findings and Discussion
- Conclusions!
- Future Directions
- Reference List/Bibliography
Structuring Bibliographic Research

The 8 steps of topic analysis (aka the 8 pillars of bibliographic wisdom):

- Systems and serendipity
- Topic identification and description
- Search vocabulary: the key(words) to the kingdom
- Truncation – know your symbols!?*#
- Call numbers – know your addresses
- Search documentation – track your sources
- Search documentation – cite your sources
- Document assessment – know (and be able to defend) your sources
Making Friends with The UCSB Library

- General navigation and neat stuff on the top page
- Subject-specialist Librarians – your new best friends
- “How to "Guides – quick answers to important questions
- Significant/important/interesting/helpful databases (and how to get there)
Questions? Suggestions!

- Any questions?

- Suggestions (aka Assignment)
  - “Go” to the library or logon from home
  - Identify “your” librarian
  - Find one book on your topic
  - Identify a relevant database
  - Find one article on your topic