McNair Scholars Program
Junior Cohort
Research and Writing

An Introduction to the Basics

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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
<u>Library</u>

➢ 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