RESEARCH PROJECTS
- Highly adaptable and flexible way to help your students achieve your course goals and outcomes.
- Involve different stages and types of work and can provide students with opportunities to develop their search skills, communication skills, critical thinking skills, project management skills, presentation skills, and more.
- Work in a wide range of class situations, from synchronous or asynchronous online classes to in-person classes.

BEST PRACTICES

CHUNK YOUR ASSIGNMENT
- Undergraduates, particularly those who are newer to research, can really benefit from additional check-ins to ensure that their projects are progressing well!

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
- Research projects are opportunities for students to not just learn more about a given field or discipline, but also a chance for them to develop really valuable, foundational skills in areas like critical thinking and communication.

COMPONENT PARTS
- Research involves a number of complicated, interconnected, and recursive steps.
- What do students need to know or be able to do before embarking on a research assignment?
CREATIVE APPLICATIONS
- Letting students choose the format they want to show their research in can make the assignment more interesting to them and produce a better end product as a result.
- It also gives them the added step of considering why they want to present their information in that format, who their audience is, and the best way to communicate it.

Research does not always have to result in a research paper and, depending on your class topic and structure, your students might benefit from producing other types of content, from op-eds to video presentations to online exhibits.

MULTIPLE DELIVERABLES
- If you have students write a research paper, consider having them also do a presentation or an infographic.

Emory's Teaching Toolkit

RESEARCH PROJECT IDEAS

EVERYTHING BUT THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT
- This focuses on the research PROCESS rather than writing.

This is an assignment where students go through the research process and produce annotated bibliographies, lit reviews, and/or project proposals.

This type of assignment can help students develop their research skills without the added pressure of also writing a paper.

Emory's Teaching Toolkit

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILL ACTIVITIES
- Evaluating sources
- Identifying peer review materials
- Searching for information

Before diving into a research assignment, have students practice their skills with smaller assignments or class activities.

TRANSLATE A RESEARCH PAPER INTO DIFFERENT FORMATS
- Podcast
- Presentation
- Website
- Online Exhibit
- Infographic

Who is this research important and relevant to?
Who would benefit from knowing this information?
Can you successfully communicate it in this format?
REFLECTION PROMPTS AND DISCUSSION BOARDS

- Pair this with other strategies of breaking the assignment into multiple parts and have them reflect after each section.
- What worked?
- What might they do differently next time?

Have students reflect on the research process and/or share their thoughts and experiences on a discussion board.

This can be a way to help students reflect on their own learning and engage with and learn from each other.

RESEARCH FOR PROBLEM SOLVING

Have students investigate a problem or a local issue and use their research to help them craft and propose some sort of action plan or solution to their issue.

RESEARCH FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Have students research a local issue and policy issue and write a policy proposal or an op-ed on the issue.

This type of assignment can help students not only explore different applications for research but also explore and reflect on their own views and ideas as engaged citizens.

CASE STUDIES AND SCENARIOS

Have students conduct research as part of a case study or scenario, such as a situation where they are having to work with a client or solve a complicated problem in their field or discipline.

This type of research project can work really well as a group project.

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Consider turning any of the above ideas into a group research project, where students will have multiple phases and different types of content that they are responsible for producing together.

SURVEYS, POLLS, AND STUDIES

Have students, ideally in groups, work together to develop their own survey, analyze, and report on their results.
GRADING A RESEARCH PROJECT WITH A RUBRIC

**WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?**

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**PROJECT RUBRIC**

- Break down the descriptions of the components into individual parts
- Faster for grading
- Terms used to describe level of performance should be tactful but clear
- Active & Positive
- What is expected next of the student?

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**Mastery (100-90) A range**
- Strong position is presented and supported throughout the project
- Contains clear thesis statement and comes up with an original position or insight
- Multiple sides of the argument are discussed and addressed

**Proficient (80-90) B range**
- Most facts and examples are detailed, accurate, and appropriate
- Literature referenced is accurately described and appropriately used
- All sources are relevant and support the argument

**Developing (70-75) C range**
- Most facts and examples are detailed, accurate, and appropriate
- Literature referenced is accurately described and appropriately used
- All or most sources are relevant and support the argument

**Underdeveloped (0-69) D-F range**
- Few to no facts and examples are used, or they are inaccurate/don’t support the argument
- Literature is not referenced and/or inaccurately described and used
- No sources are used or they are irrelevant

**交付物**

- Communication
- Organization
- Quality
- Creativity
- Clarity
- Mechanics

**Analysis**
- Strong position is presented and supported throughout the project
- Contains clear thesis statement and comes up with an original position or insight
- Multiple sides of the argument are discussed and addressed

**Content**
- Most facts and examples are detailed, accurate, and appropriate
- Literature referenced is accurately described and appropriately used
- All sources are relevant and support the argument

**Organization & Clarity**
- Strong introduction & conclusion
- Argument is presented clearly and is easy to follow
- Strong conclusion & conclusion