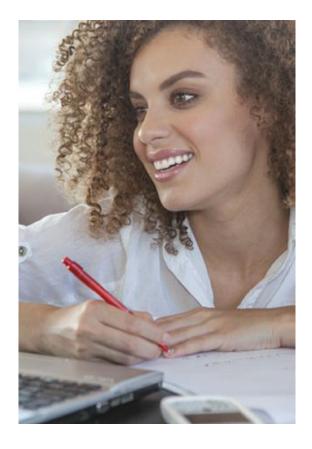
#### VAN RYS/ MEYER/ VANDERMEY/ SEBRANEK





# 20

Planning Your Research Project

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Understand academic research
- 2 Initiate the process
- 3 Develop a research plan
- 4 Consider possible resources and sites
- 5 Distinguish between types of sources

# Rhetorical Situation for Problem-Solution Writing

- Topic
  - Explore a topic that is of interest and compels writing
- Purpose
  - Become knowledgeable about the topic
  - Share the findings
- Form
  - Presented in a field report, on a Web site, or in a multimedia presentation

# Rhetorical Situation for Problem-Solution Writing

- Audience
  - Instructors, peers, and the academic community
  - Includes specific audience as per writer's preference
- Voice
  - Formal or semiformal
  - Considerable, confident tone needs to be maintained

#### **Steps in Research Process**

#### Beginning

Planning

#### **Conducting research**

#### **Developing result**

Copyright ©2016 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be scanned, copied or duplicated, or posted to a publicly accessible website, in whole or in part.

#### **Understanding the Assignment**

- Take initial notes about the assignment
- Record keywords, options, restrictions, and requirements
- Write down questions about the project and move ahead to find the answers

#### **Selecting a Topic**

- Involves identifying a suitable topic that the writers want to explore and write
- Making it manageable
  - Select a topic which can be learned in a reasonable time and is related to the subject area established by the instructor

## **Building Research Questions**

- Helps in finding information and ideas about a topic
- Enhances the research goal
- Assists in gaining a focus for writing
- Need to know
  - List simple and complex questions about the topic
  - Find supporting questions to be researched to answer the main question

# **Developing a Working Thesis**

- Working thesis: Preliminary answer to the main research question
  - Focus of a research
  - Prepared by forming a statement that demands to be proved

# **Developing a Research Plan**

- Steps to find main concepts and key terms of the topic
  - Use the library of congress subject headings
    - Library of Congress: Classification used in academic and research libraries
  - Conduct a initial search confirming resources on the topic
  - Use reference works

# **Developing a Research Plan**

- Primary
  - Interviews
  - Observations
  - Analyze artifacts
    - Artifacts: Object made by a human culture and later discovered
- Library
  - Scholarly books
  - Periodical articles
  - Other resources

# **Developing a Research Plan**

#### Internet

- Search engines and subject guides
- Recommended Web sites
- Library
  - Scholarly books
  - Periodical articles
  - Other resources

#### **Resources and Sites**

- Sources of information available range from
  - Interviews to bibliographies
  - Journal articles to graphic study
- Information sites
  - Experts and population segments
  - Libraries, computers, social networking websites, and mass media
  - Testing, training, and observation sites
  - Municipal, state, and federal government offices
  - Business and nonprofit publications

#### **Primary Sources**

- Original sources
- Offer firsthand information on a topic
- Convey directly about the topic
- Upside
  - Produce information fitting the research needs
- Downside
  - Take time and may require specialized skills

# **Secondary Sources**

- Removed from the original at least once
- Provide secondhand information
- Upside
  - Provide quality information and save research labor
  - Help by viewing the topic from multiple viewpoints
- Downside
  - Require searching of relevant data
  - Quality varies
  - Become dated

Copyright ©2016 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be scanned, copied or duplicated, or posted to a publicly accessible website, in whole or in part.

#### **Tertiary Sources**

- Provide thirdhand information
- Discouraged for college research projects
- Upside
  - Easy to find, access, and read
  - Serve as one starting point
- Downside
  - Distant from the original research and information
  - Lack reliability and detail required for collegelevel research projects

# **SUMMARY**

- Planning a research project is an important part of the project
  - Start with topics that interest you
  - Learn as much as possible about the topic
  - Take a few risks by approaching each topic in a new way
  - Take plenty of time to research a variety of topics

