Quick Guide to the Research Process

Focus your topic as you search.
Revise your search as you focus.

Read the assignment for
▪ required topics
▪ required source types

Choose search terms from
▪ textbooks
▪ class notes

Search the Library website (https://library.valleymountain.edu/) for
▪ books and ebooks
▪ scholarly journal articles
▪ newspaper and magazine articles
▪ pro-con arguments
▪ subject-specific encyclopedias

Browse results for relevant
▪ article and book titles
▪ keywords and subjects
▪ abstracts and summaries
▪ tables of contents
▪ terms in indexes

Too Many Results?
Check options in the Refine Results menu

Too Few Results?
Use broader search terms or try a different database

Evaluate your topic and results
▪ focus or expand your topic
▪ use different search terms
▪ consider a related topic
▪ return to an earlier step of the research process

Focus your topic as you search.
Revise your search as you focus.