

At the beginning of the semester going into Sociology 346, Survey to Research Methods I did not know if I would sink or swim. I was told that Research Methods would not be easy to understand and that the course itself was difficult and time consuming. This was the first time I was able to dive in head first and conduct research based on my own research question and survey questions. My process in developing my academic research was smooth and exciting. I enjoyed being able to conduct my research based on my own drive for a single topic. My process has changed through my mindset. As I stated I went into this class not knowing how well I would do. My mind has evolved and enhanced through the development of my research I conducted, and this caused my process to change. When doing research before I would use academic journals and other academic works, but instead through this process I used both academic works as well as my own conducted research. Doing it for myself changed my way of processing the research.

For selecting academic resources for my research assignments I found it best to focus on my key terms for my research. My topic was focused on students' attitudes towards the policy changes at Longwood University during COVID-19. When looking up resources for my Literature Review it was quite difficult. I did not know how to begin or what exact policies to base my research off of. I developed key terms and started with that. I used words like "Policies" "Negative" and "Attitudes." I decided which sources to use first, based on whether they were scholarly or not. That has a big effect on my research, because then I know that I am getting peer reviewed published academic studies. After I found the sources I read their abstracts to decide if it focused on the concepts I needed. Once I did all of this I applied it to my own research. I never changed or added any sources throughout my research time.

When doing research for this class and my assignments I encountered a few obstacles. My Literature Review was the biggest challenge for me. It was only my second time writing one in my collegiate career, and it was the first step in working towards our research. Another challenge was creating survey questions that would provide my study with an independent and dependent variable for my research. I am not the best at using excel, and that was a challenge when trying to read the data and retrieve my own data for my statistical results in my quantitative findings. The strategies I used to overcome were help from classmates and asking questions in class. Asking questions in class was the best way to receive help because most of the time we were in breakout rooms working together on our research, or going over exactly what needed to be accomplished for each assignment.

My perception for doing research has 100% changed while taking this course. This course takes step by step actions when conducting research. It was very easy to follow along and concise with how each task needed to be perceived. To me, “To think like a researcher” means to understand the study being conducted and knowing the audience. We knew the audience for our research which made it easy and available to conduct our survey questions and the data. The study had clear objectives and was known by the University.