NOTE: Your course research assignment might vary. Always talk to your instructor to clarify details of your research assignment.

A Research Outline Available at [http://www.cune.edu/staffweb/tom.krenzke/AResearchOutline.pdf](http://www.cune.edu/staffweb/tom.krenzke/AResearchOutline.pdf) 

At any point in using A Research Outline, ask a CUNE librarian for assistance. See also the CUNE Research Toolkit at [http://wp.cune.edu/libraryresearchhelp/toolkit/](http://wp.cune.edu/libraryresearchhelp/toolkit/).

Instructor: ................................................................. Course: ....................................................
Name: ................................................................. Date: .........................................................

I. Topic and Outline
II. Develop and Follow a Search Strategy
III. Works Consulted or References
IV. Research Project Worksheet – optional

I. Topic and Outline At any point, ask a CUNE librarian for assistance. See also the CUNE Research Toolkit at [http://wp.cune.edu/libraryresearchhelp/toolkit/](http://wp.cune.edu/libraryresearchhelp/toolkit/) > Part one > Badke research model

1. Select a topic you might want to use in a ten-page research paper and write it below. For help in developing your topic, see Badke research model (mentioned above) and The research topic.

2. Write three questions or statements you can make about this topic based on what you already know.
   a.
   b.
   c.
3. Create a research question or thesis statement using your responses to Question 2 as a basis.

4. Write a preliminary outline for your paper. To do this you need to look for background information on the topic in sources such as general encyclopedias, subject encyclopedias, other reference books, professional or scholarly periodicals, or reliable sources on the Internet. Ask a CUNE librarian for assistance; see also the CUNE Research Toolkit. CUNE electronic reference books are available at http://www.cune.edu/librarydatabases > Credo Reference; or Britannica Online; or Oxford Reference Online.
II. Develop and Follow a Search Strategy  

At any point, ask a CUNE librarian for assistance. See also the CUNE Research Toolkit.

Using the research question or thesis statement and outline from above, develop a search strategy (where you might look for information) for your research project.

1. Would you approach this topic from a humanities, social science, science, or multi-disciplinary perspective? Explain.

2. List Library of Congress (LoC) subject headings which could lead to materials on your topic. Include broader, narrower, and related subject headings. LoC subject headings are available electronically at http://authorities.loc.gov/ or http://www.cune.edu/librarydatabases > WorldCat > [subjects]. Also, Link Library holds LoC subject headings in print format (five volumes).

3. Besides the LoC subject headings, what keywords do you propose to use to search for materials on your topic?

4. Which online databases or library catalogs will you use to locate articles, books, or other materials that help answer your research question (or that support your thesis statement), and that cover the points in your outline? TIP: Use interlibrary loan for those materials not available electronically or not held by your library – see http://www.cune.edu/libraryILL for more information.
For online database recommendations by discipline, see [http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help).

What search terms will you use? As you search, examine results for new search terms, and then use the new terms to revise the search and improve the results. **TIP:** Follow these four steps: First, identify the main concepts in the research question; second, list synonyms, related terms, or subject terms; third, create a preliminary search using the terms; fourth, interact with the search results to revise the search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online database or catalog</th>
<th>Reason you chose it</th>
<th>Search terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>b.</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. Whether you search for [popular or scholarly articles](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help), or for [primary or secondary sources](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help) will be determined by your assignment requirements.

What authoritative websites or other sources will you consult? Use criteria to evaluate each – see examples at [How to evaluate information](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help > Help desk pages) and [World Wide Web evaluation checklist](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help > Help desk pages). For recommendations of authoritative websites by discipline, see [http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help > Help desk pages](http://www.cune.edu/library > Research help > Help desk pages) [see right margin].
a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

III. Works Consulted or References  At any point, ask a CUNE librarian for assistance. See also the CUNE Research Toolkit.

After you select your topic (part I. above), develop a search strategy, follow it, and locate the sources you need (part II. above), take time to review where you’ve searched and the types of sources you’ve found. At a minimum you should use:

One or more reference works that provide background information, definitions, or overviews plus identify important sources regarding your topic
Books from the library catalog
Articles from periodicals including peer-reviewed (scholarly)
Authoritative World Wide Web sources
Additional sources that apply to your research question or thesis

1. For each source, complete a Research Project Worksheet (part IV. below – optional).

2. After you have located all your sources, prepare a Works Consulted or References list to be submitted along with parts I., II., and III. above. Format this using MLA, APA, or other documentation style.

3. For help with documentation style, see the CUNE Research Toolkit > Part 3 Research tips.
IV. Research Project Worksheet -- optional  

At any point, ask a **CUNE librarian** for assistance. See also the **CUNE Research Toolkit**.

Use copies of this worksheet to record information on each source you locate for your research project. If an item does not apply, label it N/A.

Fill in the tool you used to locate each source and the search term(s) you used.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the source:  [book title, article title, or other source]</th>
<th>Tool I used</th>
<th>Search term(s) I used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[book] library catalog</td>
<td>subject search: united states history 20th century</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[article] Academic Search Premier</td>
<td>su “climatic changes” and ab (evidence or proof) -- scholarly articles</td>
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