Pick a subject that interests you. E.g. children’s literature. Refine your subject by narrowing your focus to a specific topic. E.g. children’s literature in the Victorian period. Try to pick a topic that will have enough information available.

Start by gathering some background information about the subject. Use sources such as reference books and encyclopedias to find out about your topic. Use your background information to think of appropriate search terms.

Take note of the types of resources you will require. Does your course require peer reviewed sources? Use online search platforms such as One Search to find credible articles, books, etc. from the Algonquin Library’s resource collections at algonquincollege.com/library.

Read your sources and take notes. Keep track of your sources. Write a thesis statement. Your thesis statement is the main argument of your paper and should be 1-2 sentences long. Outline the structure of your paper. Write down the main points and determine how you will organize the paper.

Write the first draft of your paper using your outline and the information you gathered from your research. Revise the draft to create your final paper.
5 Steps to Planning a Research Paper

1. Define Your Topic
   - Select and refine the topic of your paper.

2. Plan Your Research
   - Gather background info using encyclopedias, etc. and find search terms.

3. Search for Resources
   - Find resources such as articles and books through the Library.
   - algonquincollege.com/library

4. Create an Outline
   - Use your thesis statement, outline and research to write your research paper.

5. Write Your Paper
   - Write a thesis statement and create an outline of your research paper.

Elements of a Research Paper
- Thesis statement
- Review of literature
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References