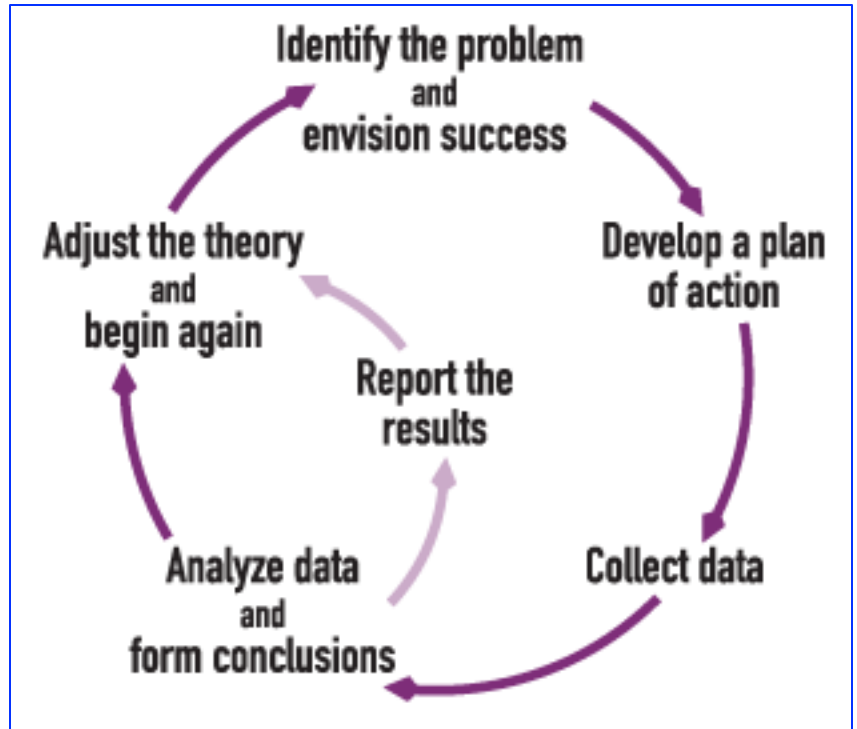


## Major Assignment #2: Inquiry-Based Research Essay

### Potential Sources for Study:

- Brown & Duguid chapter/s
- "Everything is a Remix" video
- Dana Driscoll, "Introduction to Primary Research: Observations, Surveys, and Interviews"
- Steven Johnson, "How Knowledge is Made" video
- Bergmann & Zepernick, "Disciplinary & Transfer"
- Wiggins essay
- The McGraw-Hill Handbook, 3rd Edition, Chapter 153 (Understanding Research), Chapter 14 (Finding and Managing Sources), Chapter 16 (Evaluating Sources), Chapter 19 (Working with Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism), and Chapter 20 (Writing the Paper)
- Sample student research essays

For this assignment, you will **write an 8-10 page research essay**. The objective in developing this inquiry-based research essay is not, perhaps, like other research essays or papers with which you may be familiar. In an **inquiry-based essay**, the development of a research question is the cornerstone of the essay, providing a guideline for you to follow your research wherever the information takes you. You are investigating and possibly raising additional questions rather than providing a definitive answer, comparing and contrasting, or arguing for one side or another. Therefore, the careful formulation of a solid research question about your topic is crucial in ensuring your inquiry will be effective.

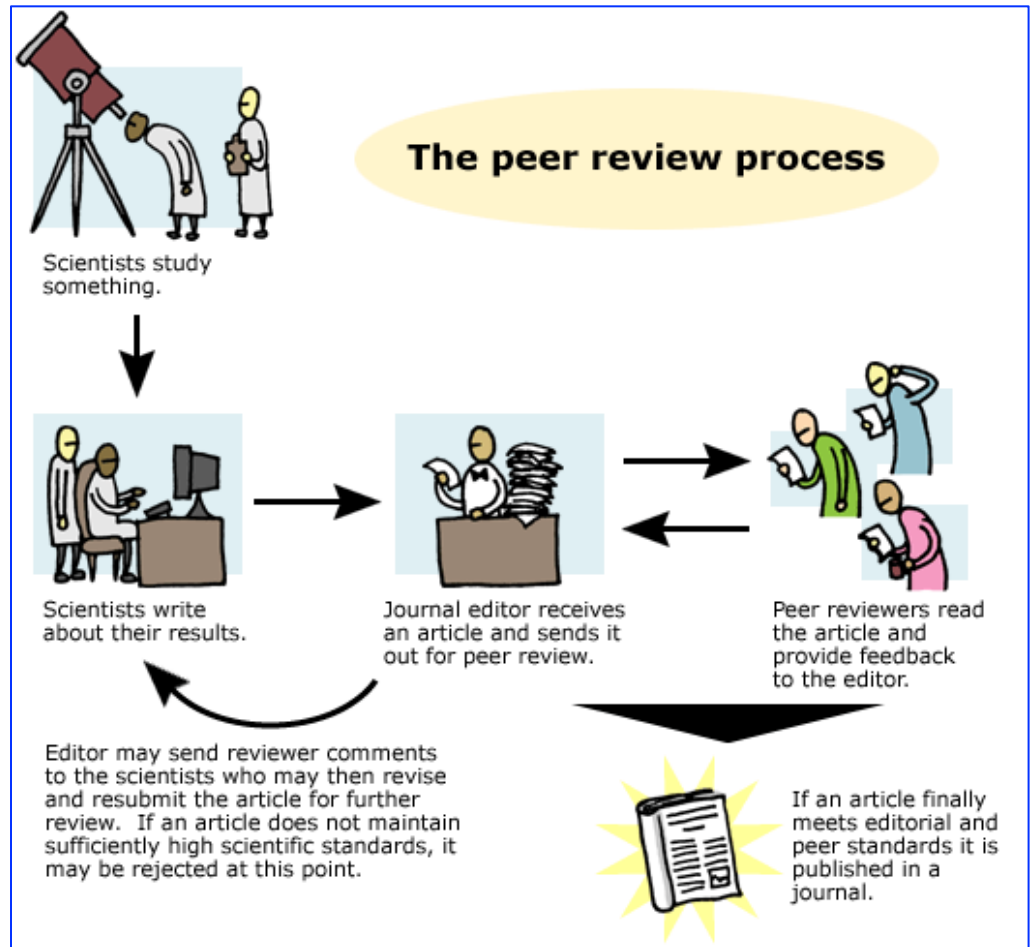


Your research question should **relate to the writing done in the discipline of your intended major**. If you do not currently have an intended major, consider this as an opportunity to learn more about a major you might be interested in. Once your research question is finalized, you will conduct extensive inquiry into the potential implications and significance of your research question. You will seek connections between the information you discover during your research and the potential significance to your topic, to identified

audiences, and to further inquiry. Your thorough research of multiple sources and full analysis of your findings will be the foundation from which you develop your essay. Your sources should be used as evidence to support, contradict, or expand on your ideas, and your essay must include extensive analysis around the question you explore.

The following types of research must be incorporated into your essay:

- Field notes about an observation that you conduct
- An interview conducted by you with a subject relevant to your research
- At least 8 academic **peer-reviewed** sources
- At least 3 popular media sources relevant to your topic



Throughout the research process, you will keep a progress journal (worksheet TBD) and write several short assignments in various genres. These Writing Genre assignments are designed to keep your research efforts focused, to have you reflect on the research process and your sources so that you might better analyze them and make knowledge about your research process, and to help you present strong ideas in your essay. Each Writing Genre assignment is designed to help you through various stages of your research.