

Academic Writing Workshop: CIF

James Martin Center for Nonproliferation
Studies at MIIS

December 1, 2016

Professor Marie Butcher

Main Topics to be Covered:

Workshop Series:

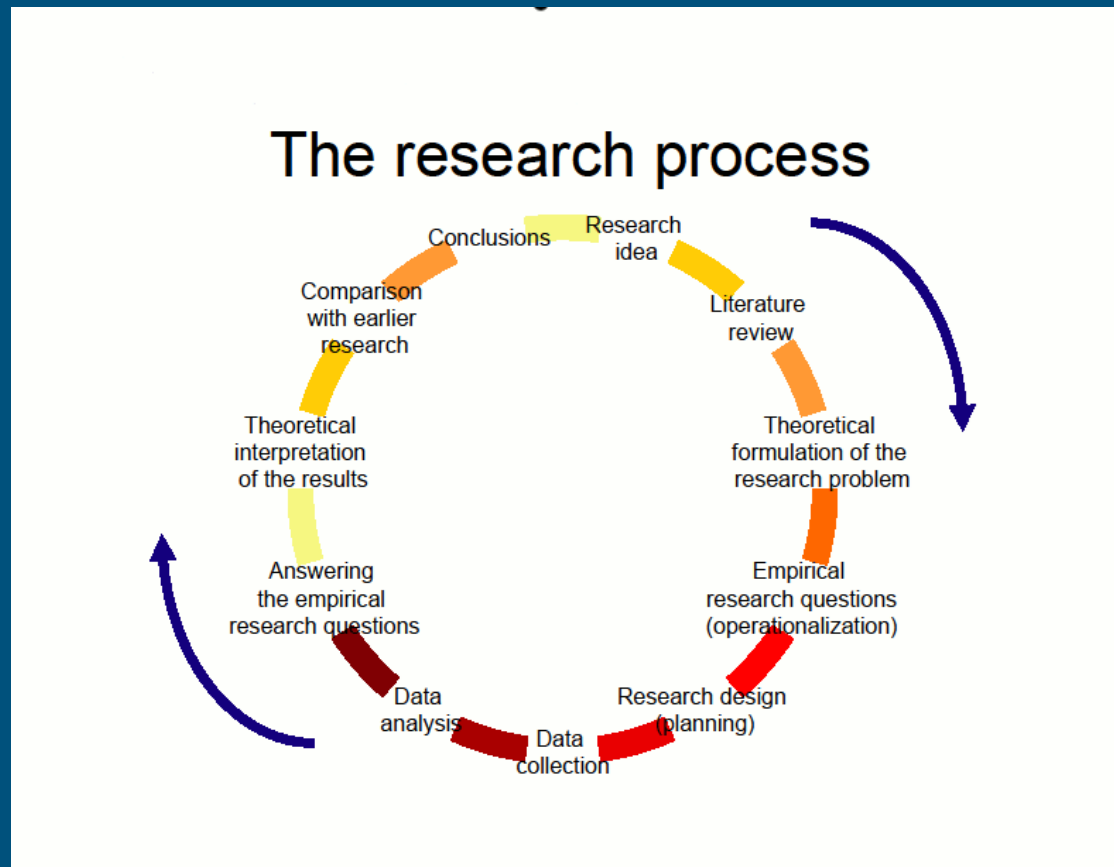
- Research Methodologies
- Citing Sources Accurately
- Focusing Your Message
- Making Effective Presentations

Research Methodologies



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calls for all nations to join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. (United Nations photo)

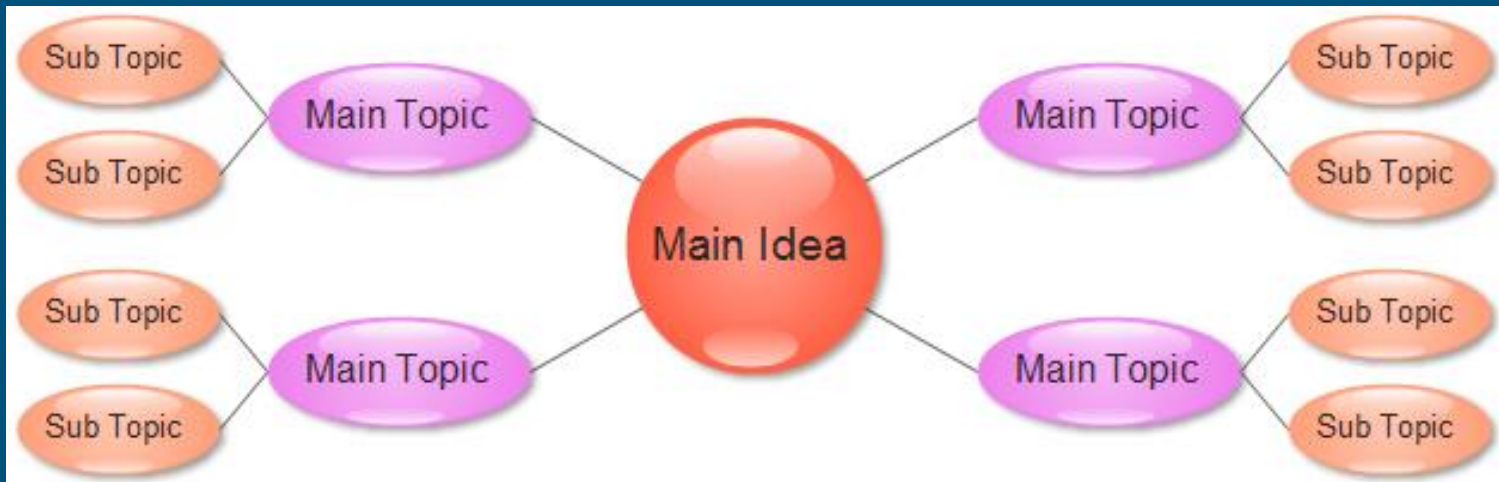
Provide Structure for the Research Process



Brainstorming

- Brainstorming Strategies---Clustering, mind mapping, etc.
- Exploring Questions--Develop a critical question related to this year's theme:
The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and Its Role for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Clustering



Questioning

- 1. What is your current research question?
- 2. Who is engaged in this discussion/
debate?
- 3. How can you deepen the conversation?

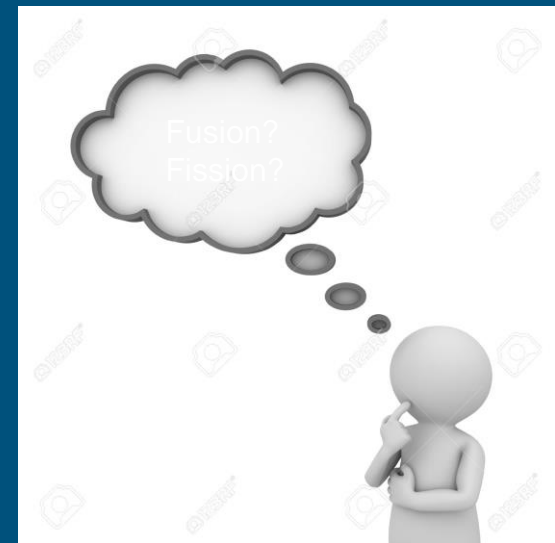


[The Critical](#)

[Issues Forum](#)

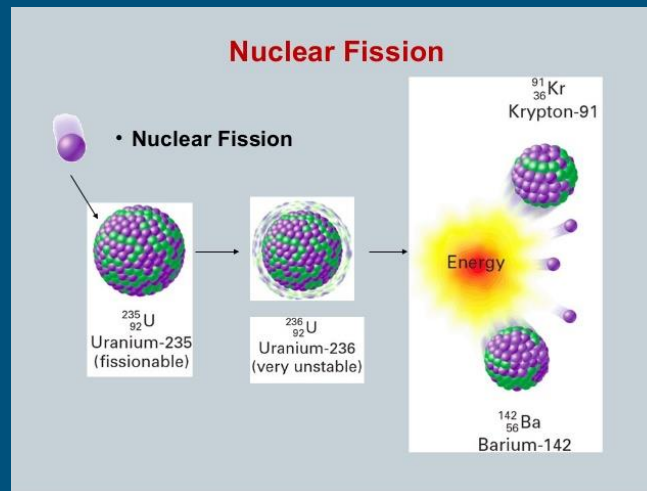
Establish Context

- Familiarize yourself with the landscape: the terminology of the discipline, commonly known facts, etc.
- Consider your perspective & identify your audience.



Research:

- Explore the landscape: Begin the discussion, ask the deep questions.
- Be discerning about finding reliable resources.
- Conduct data collecting/ fact finding & fact checking regarding your specific topic.



Where to Begin?

Check out our Student Resources on the

[CIF site:](#)



Your Methodology

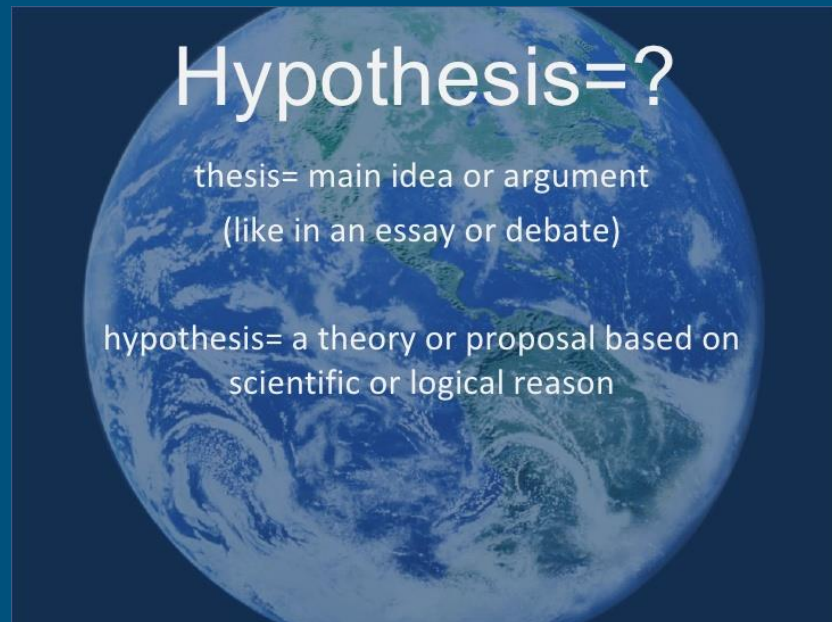
- Start with the aerial view or overview of the topic...
- Use the terminology of the discipline
- Learn (& cite) from the Content Lectures
- Conduct Background Research
- Examine specific case studies or current research in the field.



Photo Credit: HQ Walls

Embark on Inquiry= Ask Questions

- Compose a primary Research Question
- Allow the Research Question to become your thesis or hypothesis= your claim that you want to prove.



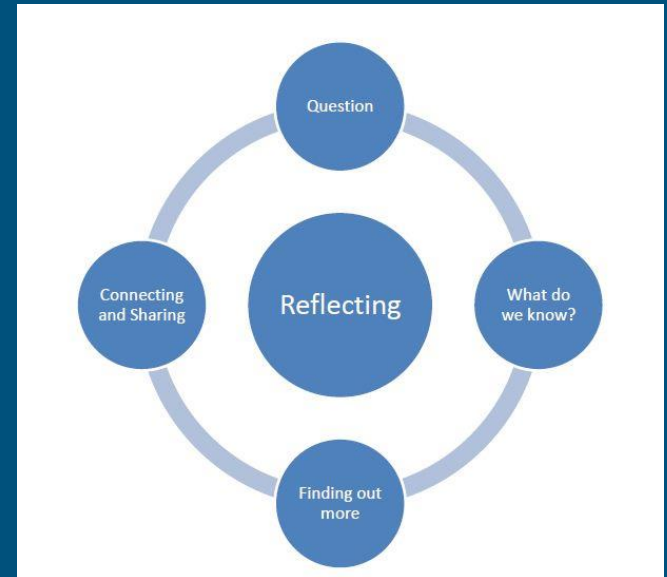
Narrowing the Scope

- Frame and narrow the scope of your research area.
- Be realistic about the scope of your research.
- Be strategic in how you approach your topic.
- Get approval of your topic.



Recursive nature of research

- More research= more inquiry, more data collection, more fact-checking, reflecting, etc.
- Narrowing the scope of the project, eliminating that which is not relevant to scope of your study.
 - The most dynamic presentations show the depth of each team's original research, assertions, claims, suggestions, speculations on solutions to your stated problem...



Summary--Collaboration & Communication are Key!



- Know your landscape & language to speak about your topic. (overview of content & vocabulary)
- Be discerning about your sources when conducting research.
- Be realistic and strategic about the scope of your project.
- Continue to make inquiries, share with your peers.
- Keep an open mind to multiple perspectives.