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Supporting Your Narrative

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Supporting Your Narrative



Develop your ideas with background reading.

If you need to learn about or focus your topic idea, browsing books and specialized encyclopedias can help. Identify key elements, learn essential vocabulary, and get a jump-start on your literature search by looking for relevant sources in works cited lists.



Format your research question.

For health-related topics, the PICO format is an excellent way to build your question.
P – patient / population
I – intervention
C – comparison
O – outcome
For other topics, begin with a clear and focused question that will guide your research.



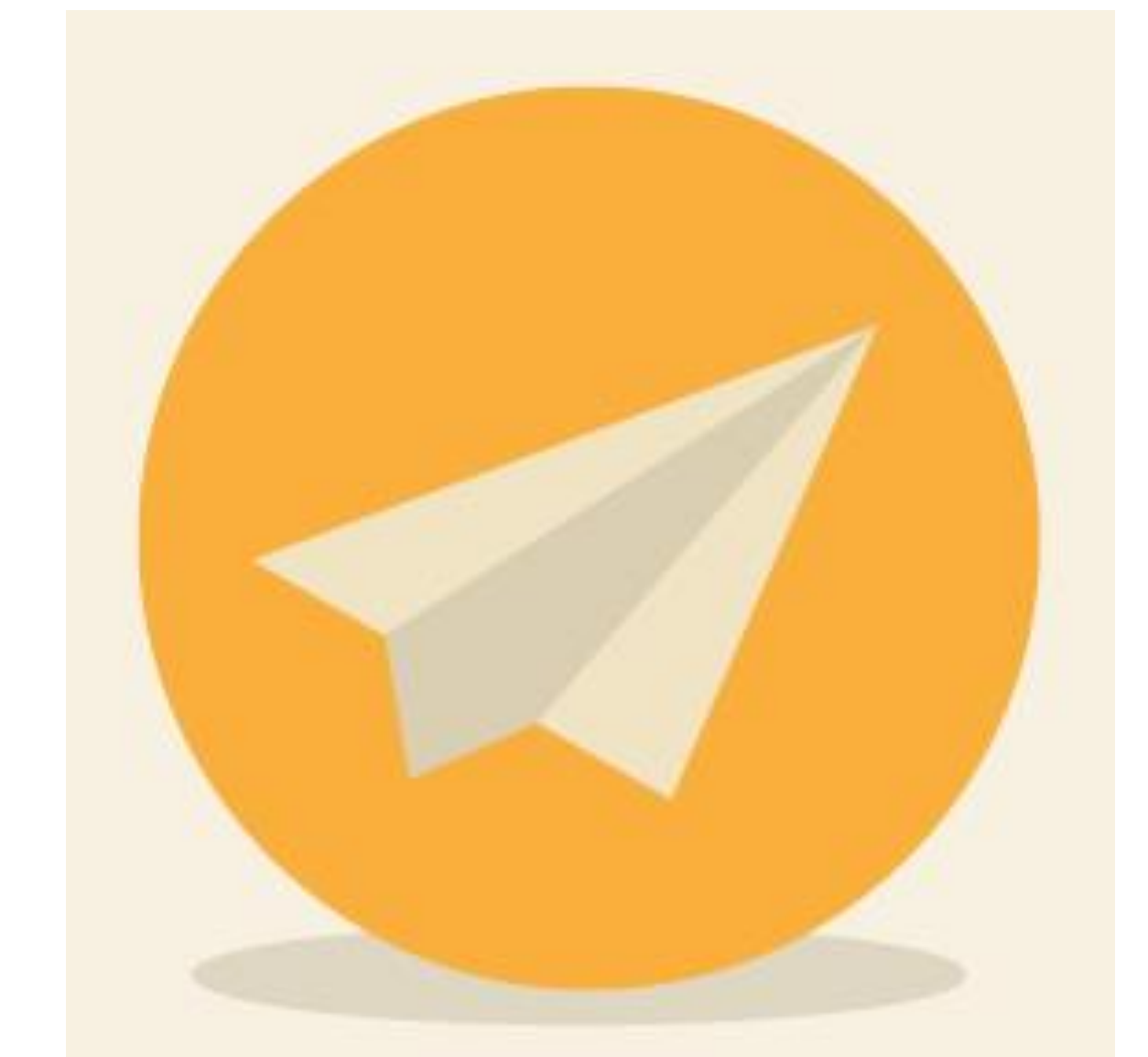
Select a search tool or tools.

Each research tool is unique. Determine which tool (e.g. PubMed, Scopus, etc.) is most likely to provide information on your topic. If you are affiliated with an academic institution, talk to a librarian about the resources that are available through your library.



Search for literature.

Select two or three key terms from your research question to begin your literature search. As you search, take note of the searching features – filters or limits, specialized vocabulary (e.g. MeSH in PubMed), links to related articles, access to full-text, etc.



Write and publish your article.

Write up your findings and decide to which publication you will submit. Find the journal's website and look for a "For Authors" page to learn about required formatting style (e.g. APA, AMA, etc.) and other standards.



ASK A LIBRARIAN!

Contact your librarian for assistance and collaboration on ALL of these steps. Or contact one of the outreach librarians from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences who offer their assistance to researchers at all levels.

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YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

If you have a challenging research question or want customized training, contact your local NNLM Outreach librarians at the **University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine & Health Sciences**.

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