Research Beginnings

Think back to the list of possible topic ideas:

* Setting—How does Forks, Washington, impact plot, characters, and meaning in *Twilight*?
* Gender—In what ways do Katniss, Peeta, and Gale reinforce or break gender norms?
* Race—Why are there so many white people in the 12 districts of the *Hunger Games*?
* Biographical—How is Rick Riordan’s personal life reflected in *Percy Jackson*?
* Historical/Political/Social Context—How does *Game of Thrones* compare to the Medieval Ages, while still reflecting modern-day morals and values?
* Psychological—In what ways is Bella’s love for Edward similar to Stockholm syndrome?
* Allegory—What are the similarities between Voldemort and Hitler’s rise to power?
* Critical reception—Why does everybody hate on *Twilight*?
* Media adaptation—How does the new “Ender’s Game” movie minimize the psychological toll of killing compared to the book?
* Comparison/Contrast—What similarities exist between “The Simpsons” and Shakespeare?
* Symbolism—How is cancer portrayed in various novels, particularly, *The Fault in our Stars*, and what is its significance in each?
* Genre study—How did “Watchmen” change the genre of comic books/graphic novels?
* Sources/influences/Allusions—What classical (Greek and Latin) allusions appear in *Harry Potter*, and what do all those fancy magic Latin words mean?

If none of these topics has tickled your fancy yet or you still have no idea what to research, there is no shame in going to Wikipedia and looking at the pages for the author and the novel and seeing if there’s anything you read there that interests/inspires you. Click the links and roam.

Research is about inspiration and perspiration, trial and error, and most importantly, play. As long as you start with your novel, you may let the hyperlinks take you “down the rabbit hole,” but remember that you will need to find your way back in your paper.

If you happened to find any sites you think you’ll want to use in your paper, use this site, <http://www.zotero.org/>, to save them.

Write down anything interesting you find on any of the subjects you research: