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Conclusions

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Conclusions

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At this point you've made it through *The Research Process*. Not just this textbook, but also the iterative process this text laid out as you embarked upon a research project. Perhaps your final project was a paper, or perhaps it was a poster or presentation. Regardless of the final format, this text is intended to serve as your guide through the research process now, and as you move forward in your research here at Western Washington University (and beyond).

To reiterate: *The Research Process* introduced you to a series of tasks and activities that you can continue to use as you conduct your research: **Getting Started**, **Explore**, **Focus**, and **Finalize**. In **Getting Started**, you received an introduction to the research process, learned more about The Learning Commons at Western Libraries and its services, and learned how to find and evaluate sources at Western Libraries. You used this opportunity to clarify any questions you had about your assignment, and created a research plan to guide you through the quarter. This is also when you may want to check out the Hacherl Research & Writing Studio, where you can get help on your project throughout the quarter.

Explore built upon the background knowledge you amassed about your topic and took you through a tour of the different types of resources you may utilize. The type of resource will likely depend on the project and topic. For example, a research project for a history course may require you to find primary resources such as those available in Center for Pacific Northwest Studies and Special Collections. Meanwhile, a research project for a course in Woodring College for Education may make use of the Children's and Teen's Literature collection. Additionally, many instructors include a peer-reviewed article requirement, something to remember while exploring the features and materials in the article databases.

When you **Focus** your research, you continued to gather information related to your inquiry question. You also sought up-to-date sources (if new information emerged) while also putting together a rough draft of your work. Then you moved into the **Finalize** stage, where you revised and refined your work. Following the steps built into this textbook will help you prepare for, and take part in, the research process, and will result in an informed and nuanced final project that is a synthesis of the research you conducted over the course of this class.

Good luck, and have fun!