ED 1115: Introduction to College Research

College of DuPage Library

research

So what is research anyway?

Based on Scholarly Research Cycle, Capella University

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Based on Scholarly Research Cycle, Capella University

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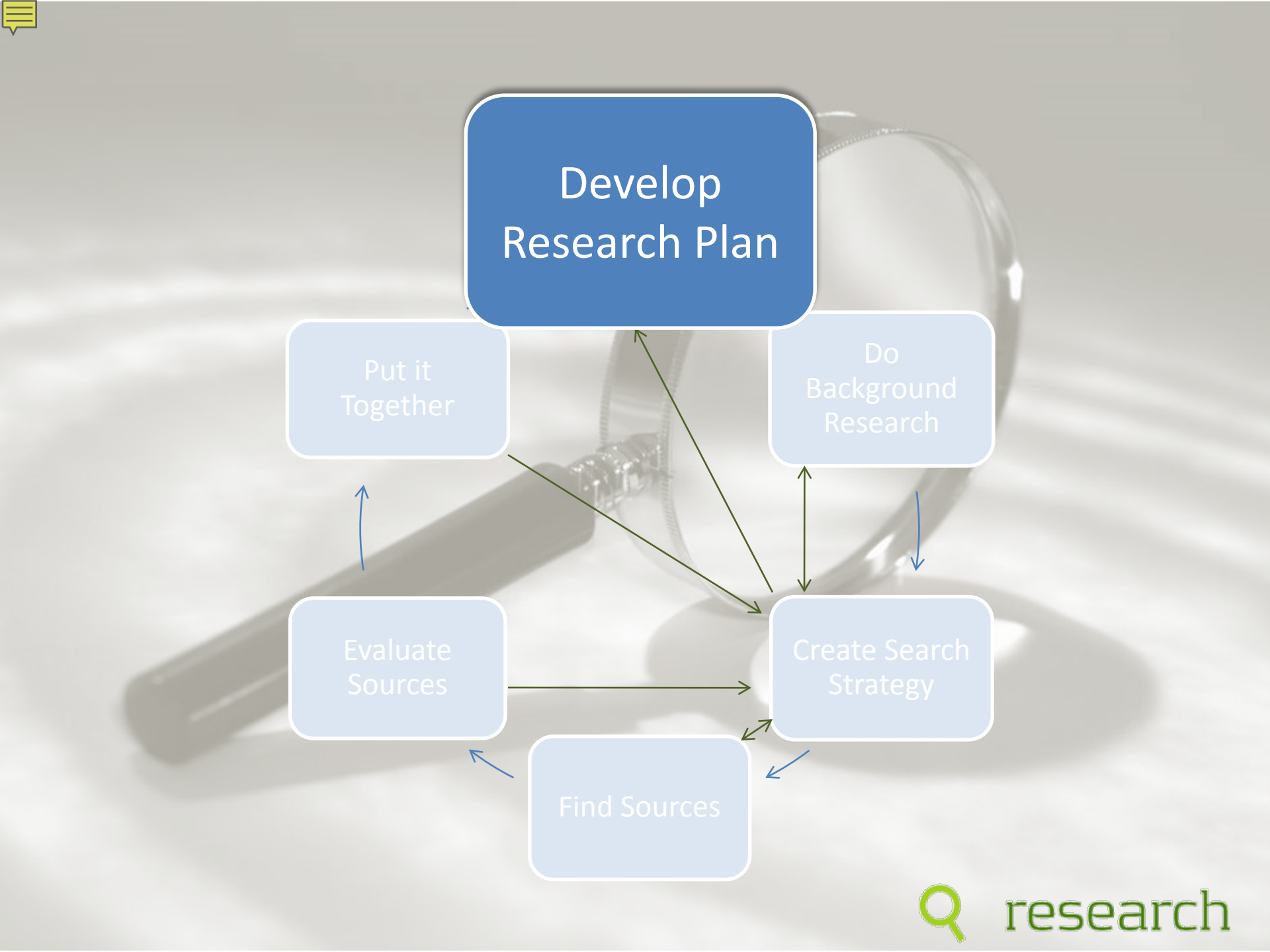
Develop Research Plan
Do Background Research
Create Search Strategy
Find Sources
Evaluate Sources
Put it Together

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Develop Research Plan

- Understand your assignment
  - How long is it?
  - When is it due?
  - Does it require specific types of resources?
- Know where to go with questions
  - Instructor office hours
  - Library hours

Develop Research Plan

What should you do at this stage?

- Make sure you understand your assignment.
- Create a realistic plan and timeline to complete the assignment.

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Develop Research Plan

Where can you get help at this stage?

- Your instructor
- Ask a Librarian
- Research help books
- Online research guides
- Assignment Calculator http://ac.codlibrary.org
- Writing Center http://www.cod.edu/write

Develop Research Plan

Which is the most manageable topic?

A. 2 page paper on art– due in 3 weeks
B. 3-4 minute speech on your favorite movie– due next month
C. 5 page paper comparing Chicago and New York– due next month
D. 2 minute presentation on diabetes– due in 7 days.

Develop Research Plan
Do Background Research
Put it Together
Evaluate Sources
Create Search Strategy
Find Sources

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Do Background Research

Why?

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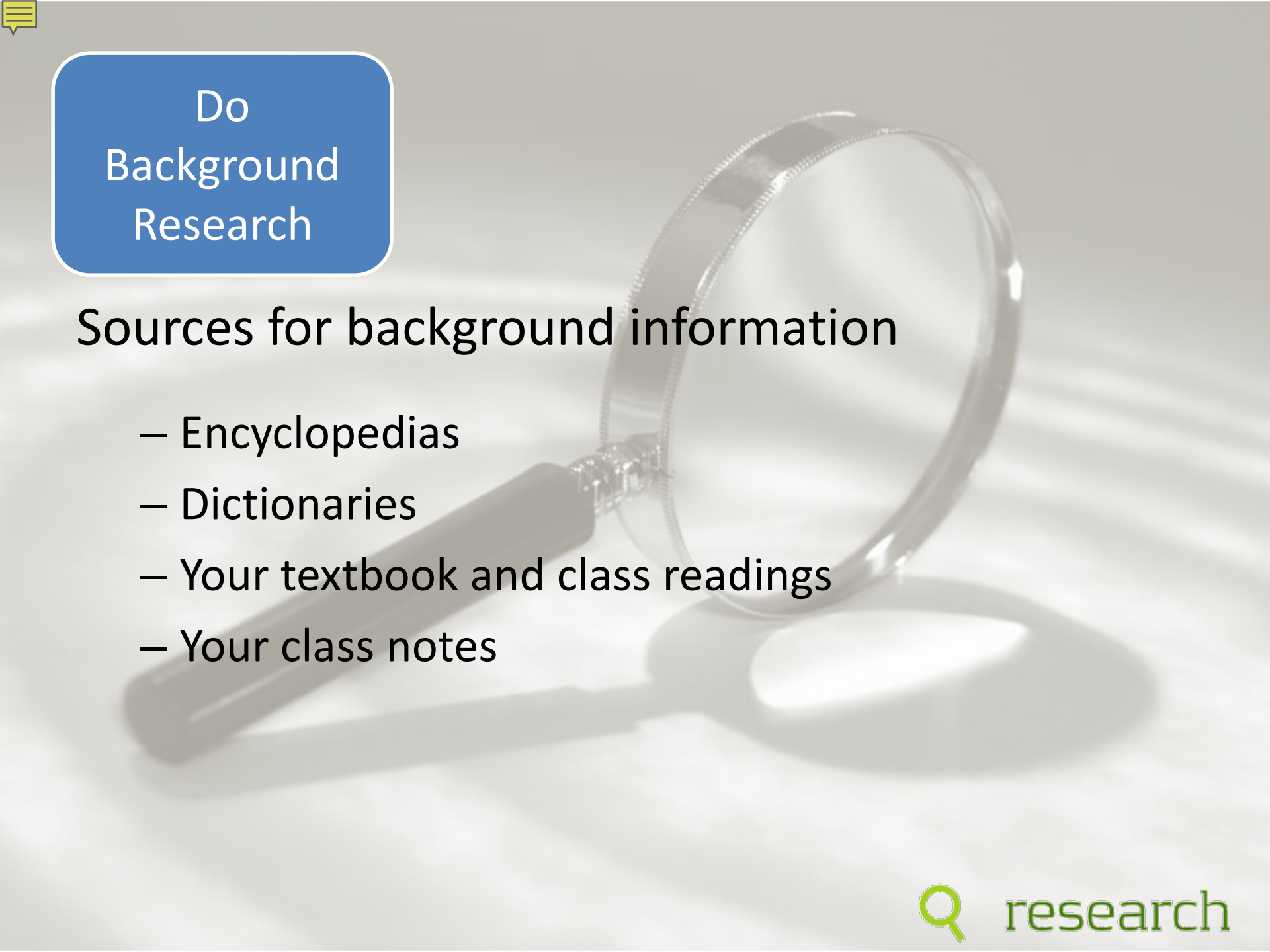
Do Background Research

Sources for background information

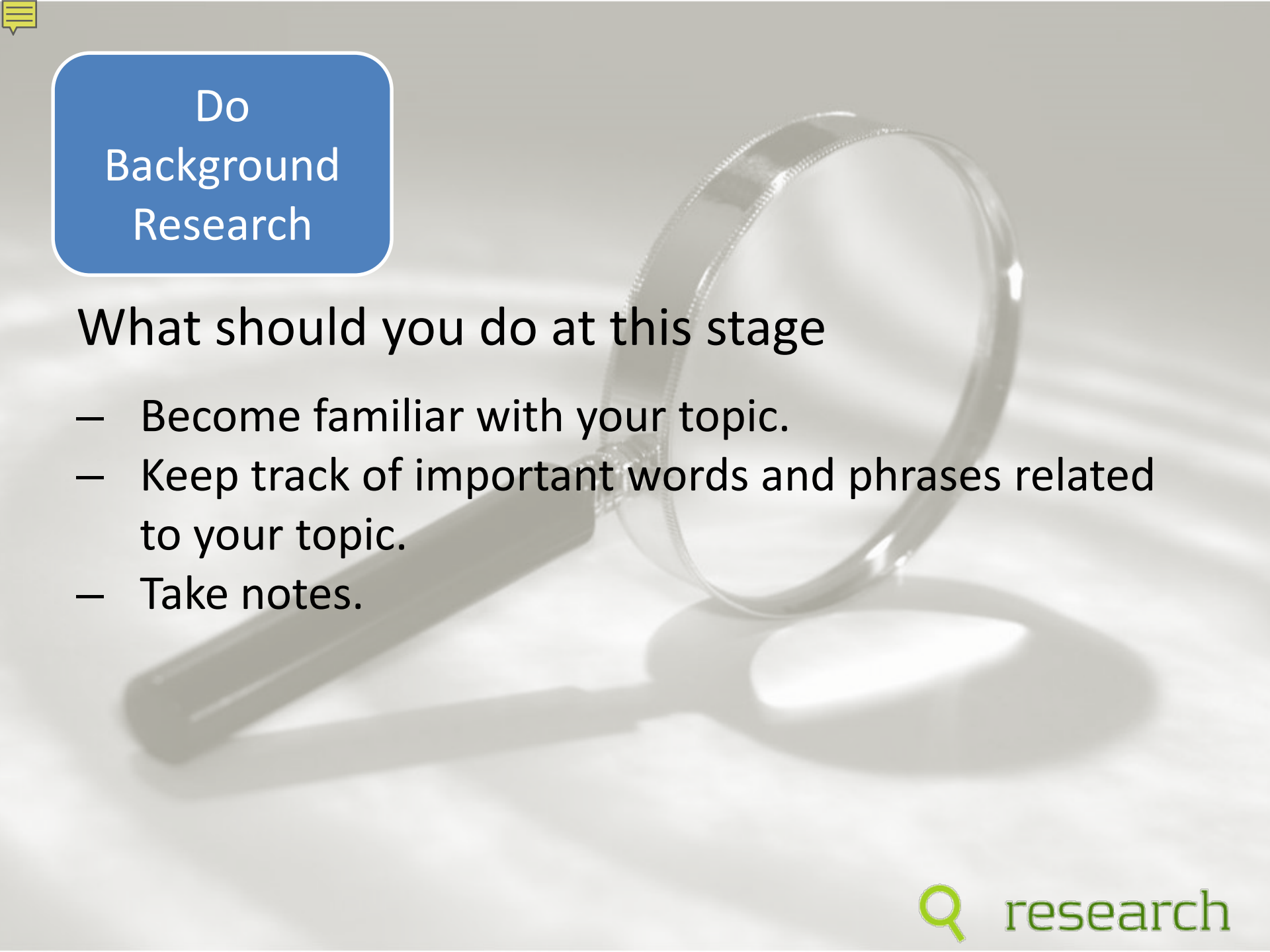
- Encyclopedias
- Dictionaries
- Your textbook and class readings
- Your class notes



Do Background Research

What should you do at this stage

- Become familiar with your topic.
- Keep track of important words and phrases related to your topic.
- Take notes.



Do Background Research

Where can you get help at this stage?

– Encyclopedias, Google, other reference resources
– Ask a Librarian

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Do Background Research

What does Wikipedia have to say about your topic?

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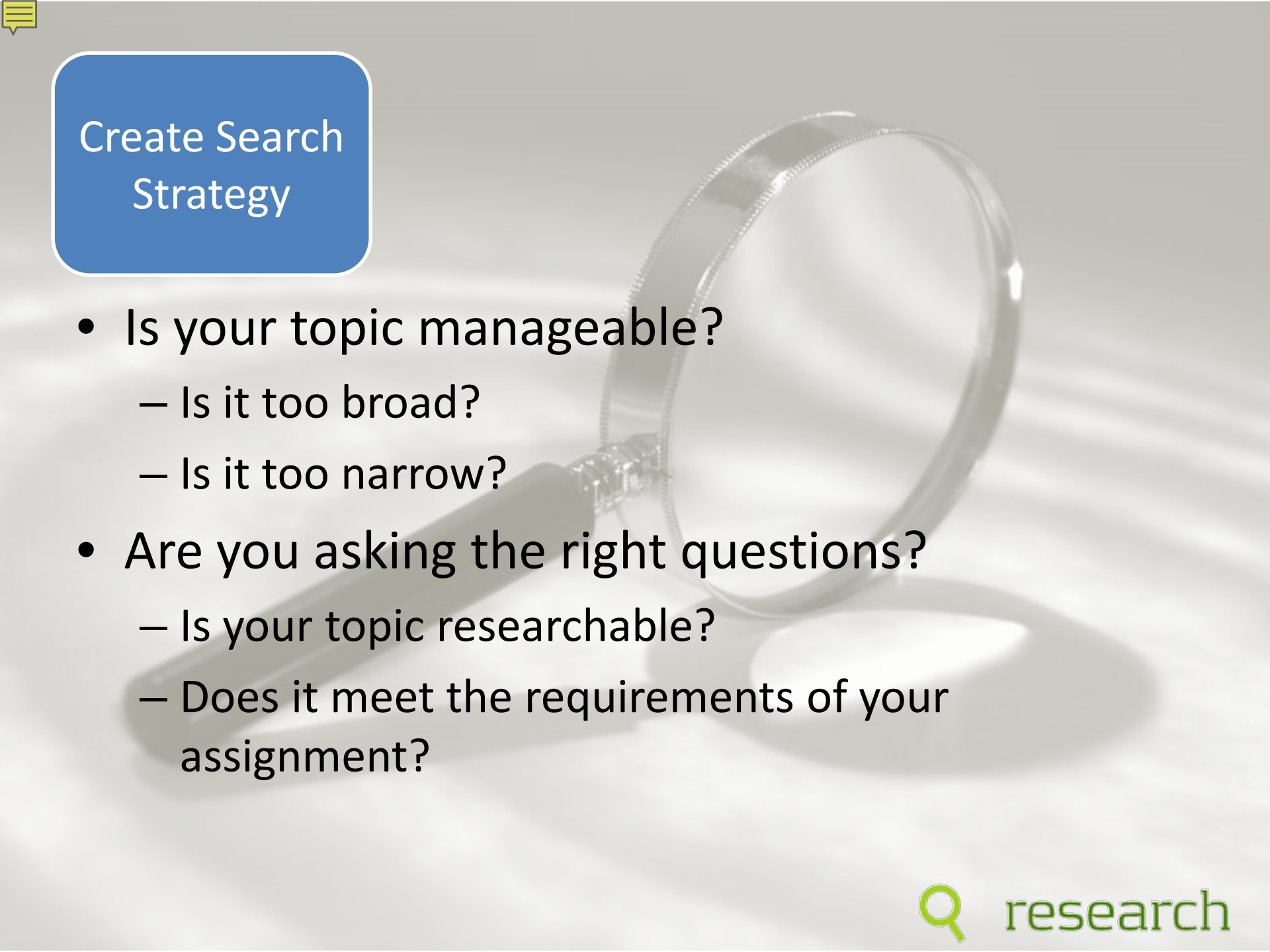
Create Search Strategy

- Is your topic manageable?
  - Is it too broad?
  - Is it too narrow?
- Are you asking the right questions?
  - Is your topic researchable?
  - Does it meet the requirements of your assignment?



Create Search Strategy

Again…

Why?

research

Create Search Strategy

What does a search strategy involve?

- finding the focus of your question
- understanding what the main ideas are
- considering other ways of describing these ideas
- knowing where you should start looking
- building on what you've found

Create Search Strategy

What are the main ideas or “key” words?

Does involvement in college clubs increase student success?

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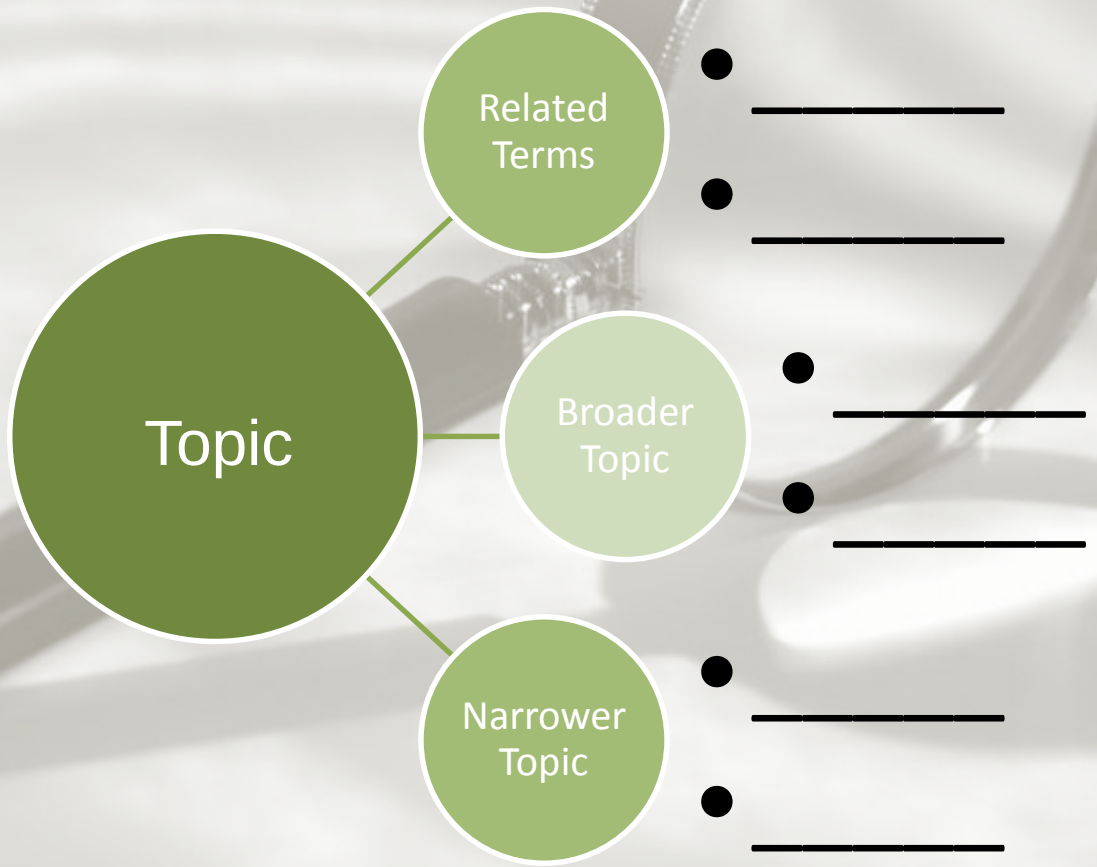
Create Search Strategy



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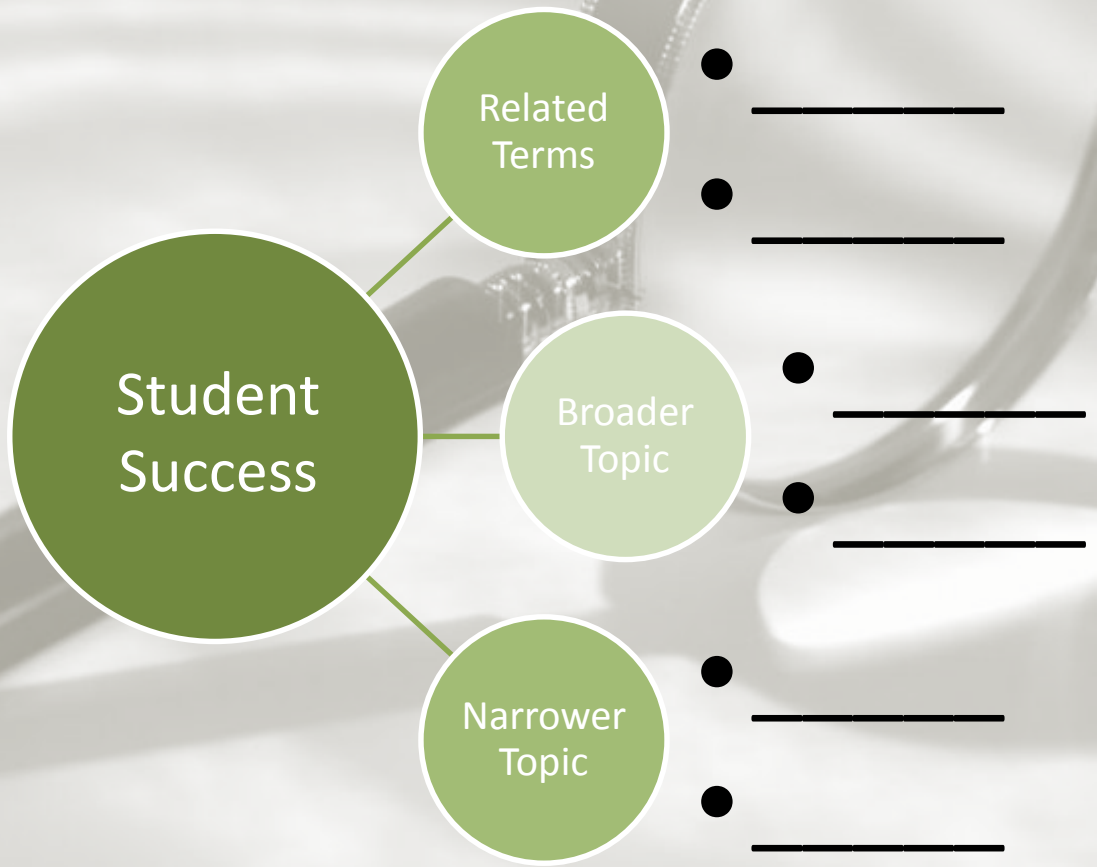
Create Search Strategy



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Create Search Strategy

Where do you look for…

current or up to date information?

A. Books
B. Magazines
C. Websites
D. Encyclopedias

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Create Search Strategy

Where do you look for…

comprehensive information?

A. Books
B. Magazines
C. Websites
D. Encyclopedias

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Create Search Strategy

Where do you look for…

background information?

A. Books
B. Magazines
C. Websites
D. Encyclopedias

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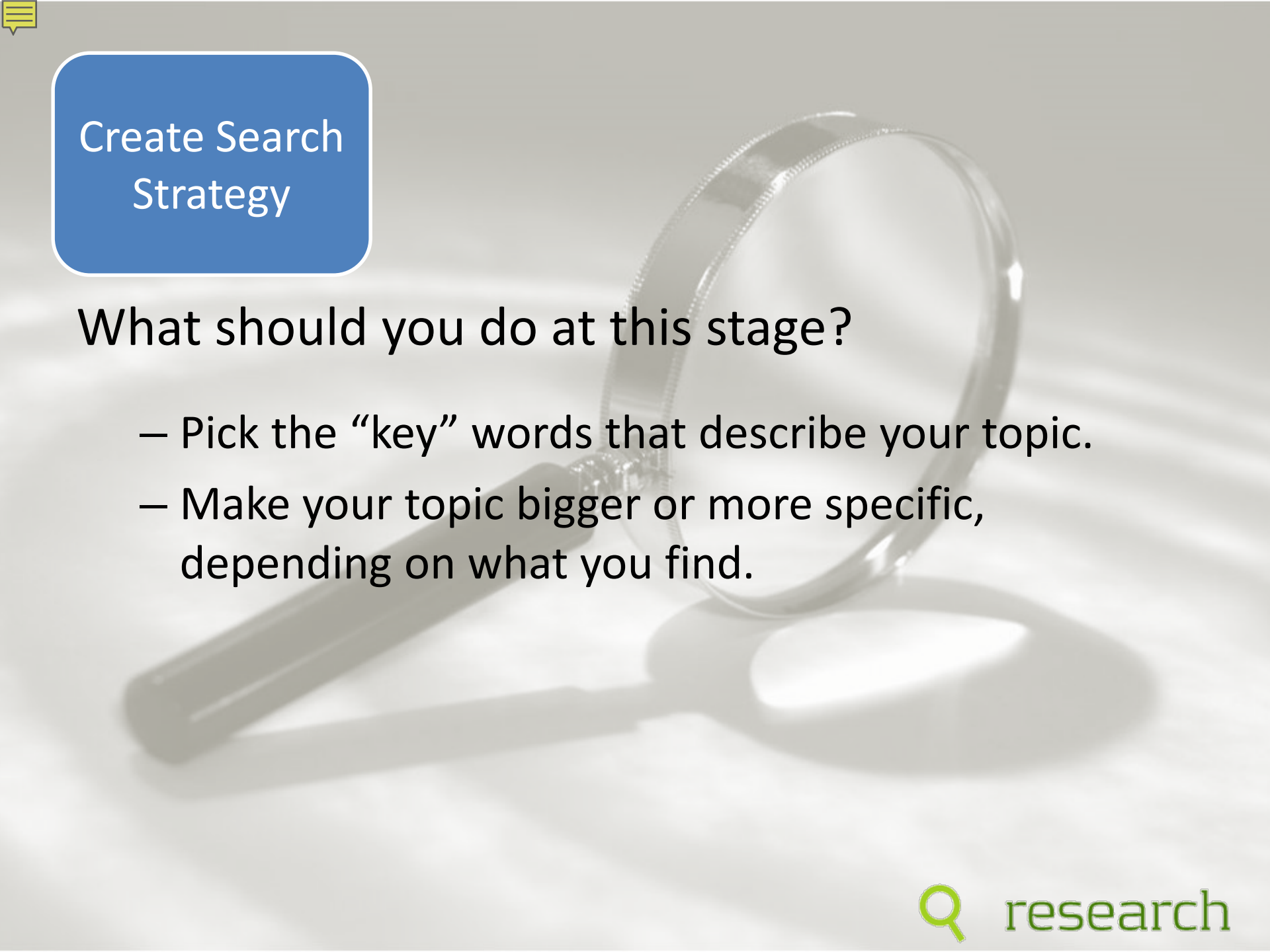
Create Search Strategy

What should you do at this stage?

- Pick the “key” words that describe your topic.
- Make your topic bigger or more specific, depending on what you find.



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Create Search Strategy

Where can you get help at this stage?

- Brainstorming
- Background resources– encyclopedias, etc.
- General websites
- Writing Center
- Ask a Librarian

Develop Research Plan
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Find Sources

Before you begin searching, look at your assignment and ask yourself:

- How many sources do I need?
- What types of sources do I need?
- Are there any sources I *cannot* use?
- Does the information need to be current? How current?

Find Sources

Types of Sources

Reference

Books

Articles

Internet

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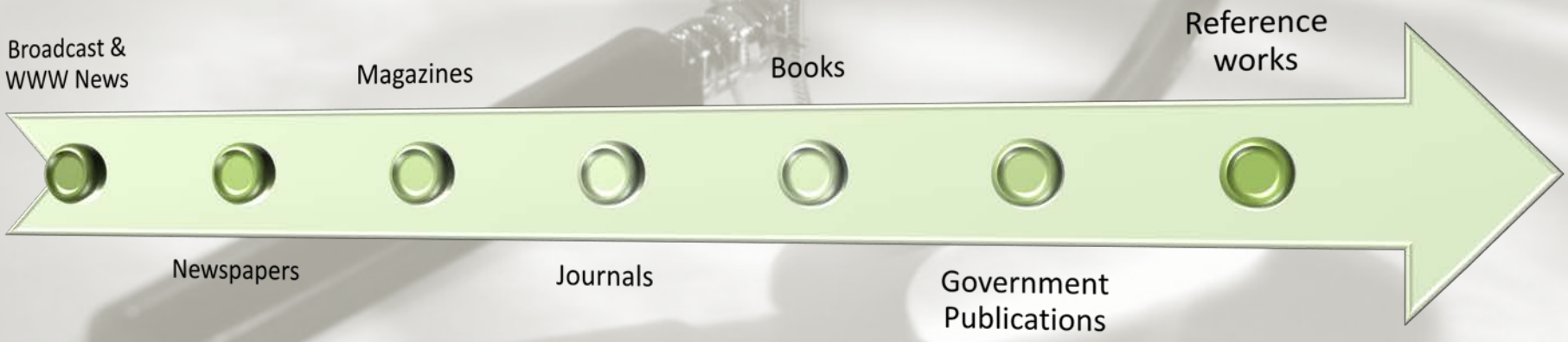
Find Sources

Are some sources better than others?



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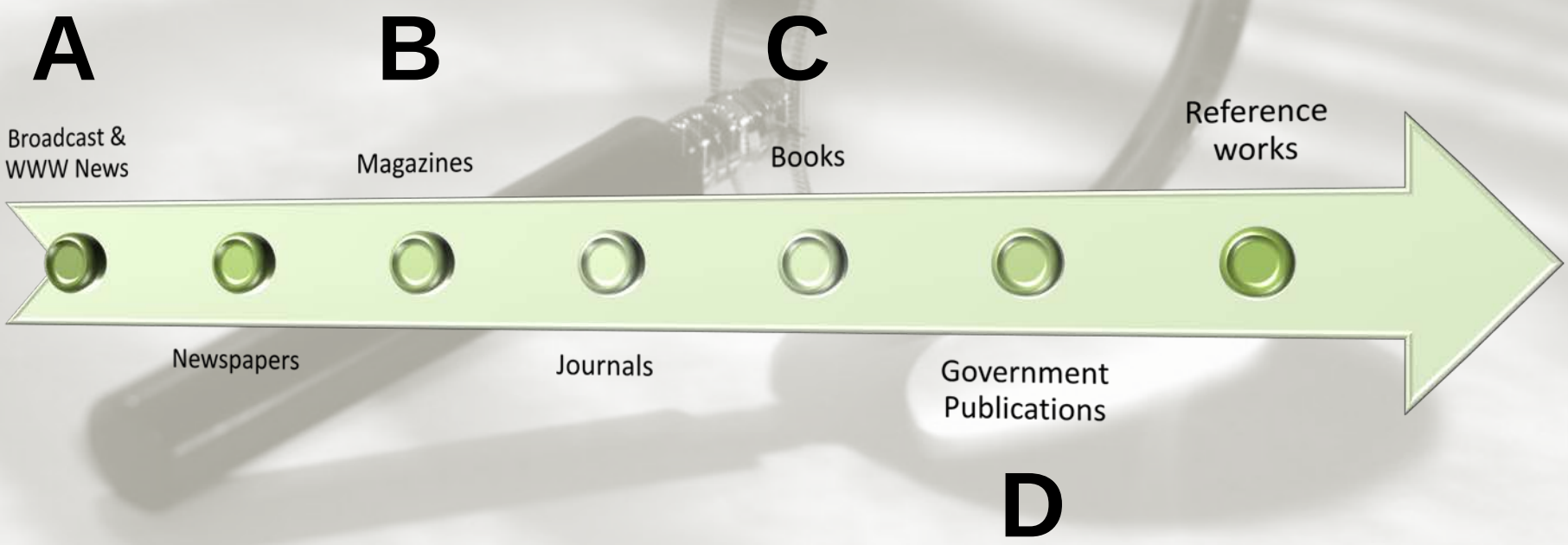
Find Sources

What's the best source for…

information about something that happened yesterday?



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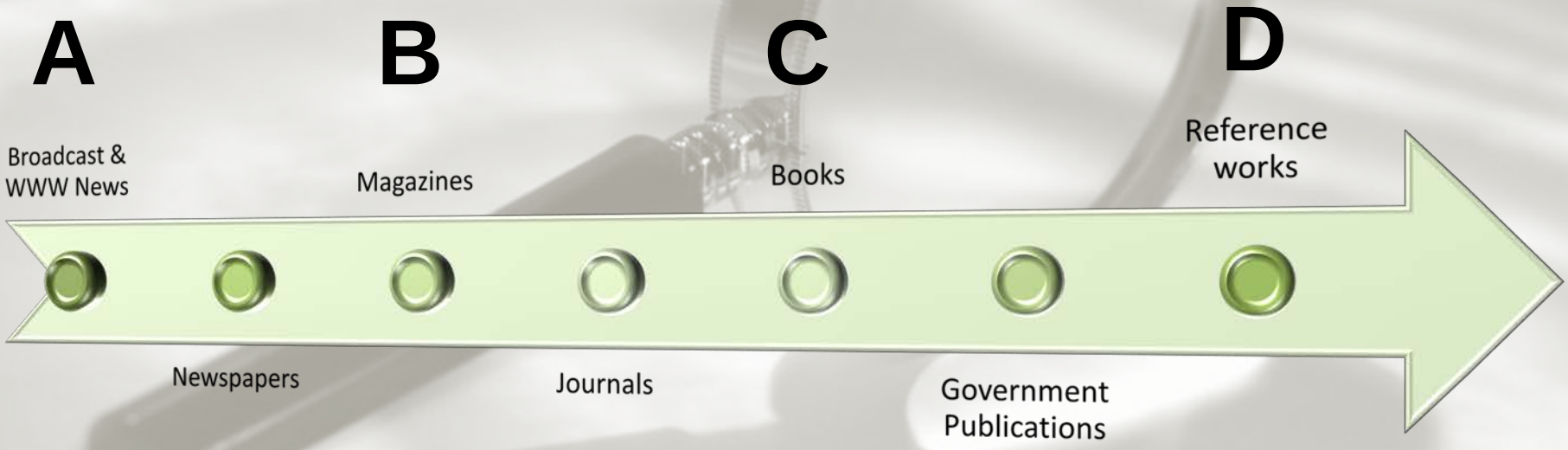
Find Sources

What's the best source for…

in-depth information on a subject?



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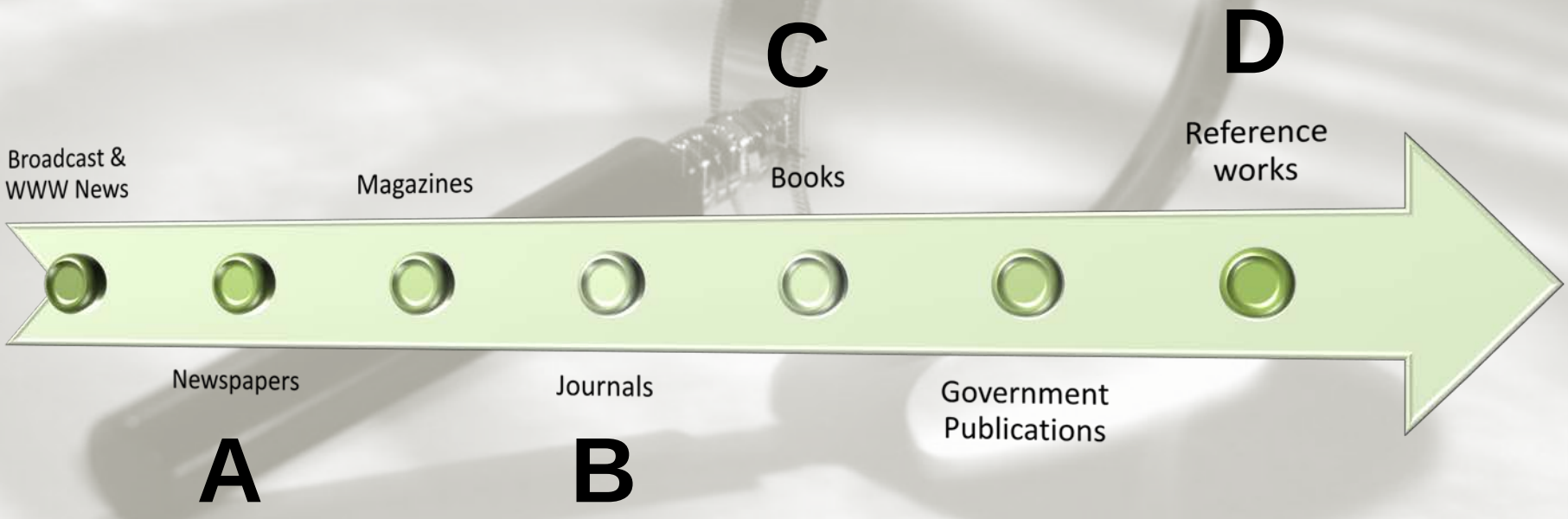
Find Sources

What's the best source for…

details of a research study?



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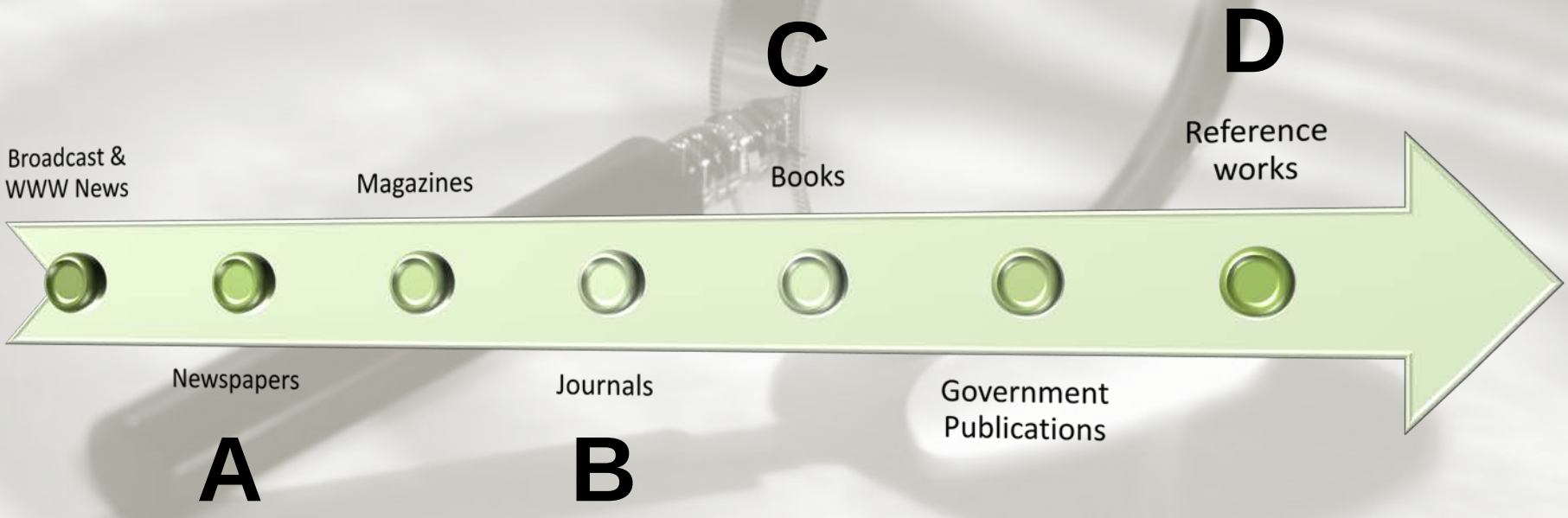
Find Sources

What's the best source for…

current statistics on a topic?



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Find Sources

Resources for finding sources

Library Catalog

Library Databases

Search Engines

Bibliographies

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Find Sources

What should you do at this stage?

- Find out what the Library has for you.
- Know the differences between types of sources and their formats and when to use one over another.
- Use the right tool to find the right source (catalog, databases, search engines).

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Find Sources

Where can you get help at this stage?

- Ask a Librarian
- Subject Research Guides
  http://www.cod.edu/library/research/
- Research FAQs
  http://www.cod.edu/library/research/faq.htm

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Evaluate Sources

What are you looking for?

1. Information that is useful to your research

Evaluate Sources

Which source would you look at first?

A. A book published this year by a professor of Education at Loyola University
B. An article published last year in the New York Times
C. A recently updated website studyskills.com
D. A research study published last month in the Journal of Comparative and International Education

Evaluate Sources

What are you looking for?

2. Information that is credible, unbiased, timely and correct

Evaluate Sources
Currency
Reliability
Authority
Purpose/Point of View
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Evaluate Sources

What's the best source?

A. "How much do college students care about online privacy?" *USA Today*, May 29, 2013

B. "Privacy & Safety on Instagram" *Instagram Blog*, August 2, 2012.

C. "Privacy issues of social networking sites," *Wikipedia*

D. "A Secret Is No Longer A Secret Once You Tell The Internet." *Huffington Post,* December 30, 2012.

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Evaluate Sources

What should you do at this stage?

- Look at your sources and see if they are Useful for your research
- Look at your sources and see if they are Right for your assignment
- Look at your sources and see if they are the Best available on your topic

Evaluate Sources

Where can you get help at this stage?

- Your assignment
- Your instructor
- Ask a librarian

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Put it Together

Know when to cite

Paraphrasing

Summarizing

Quoting

From Capella University Library Research Handbook

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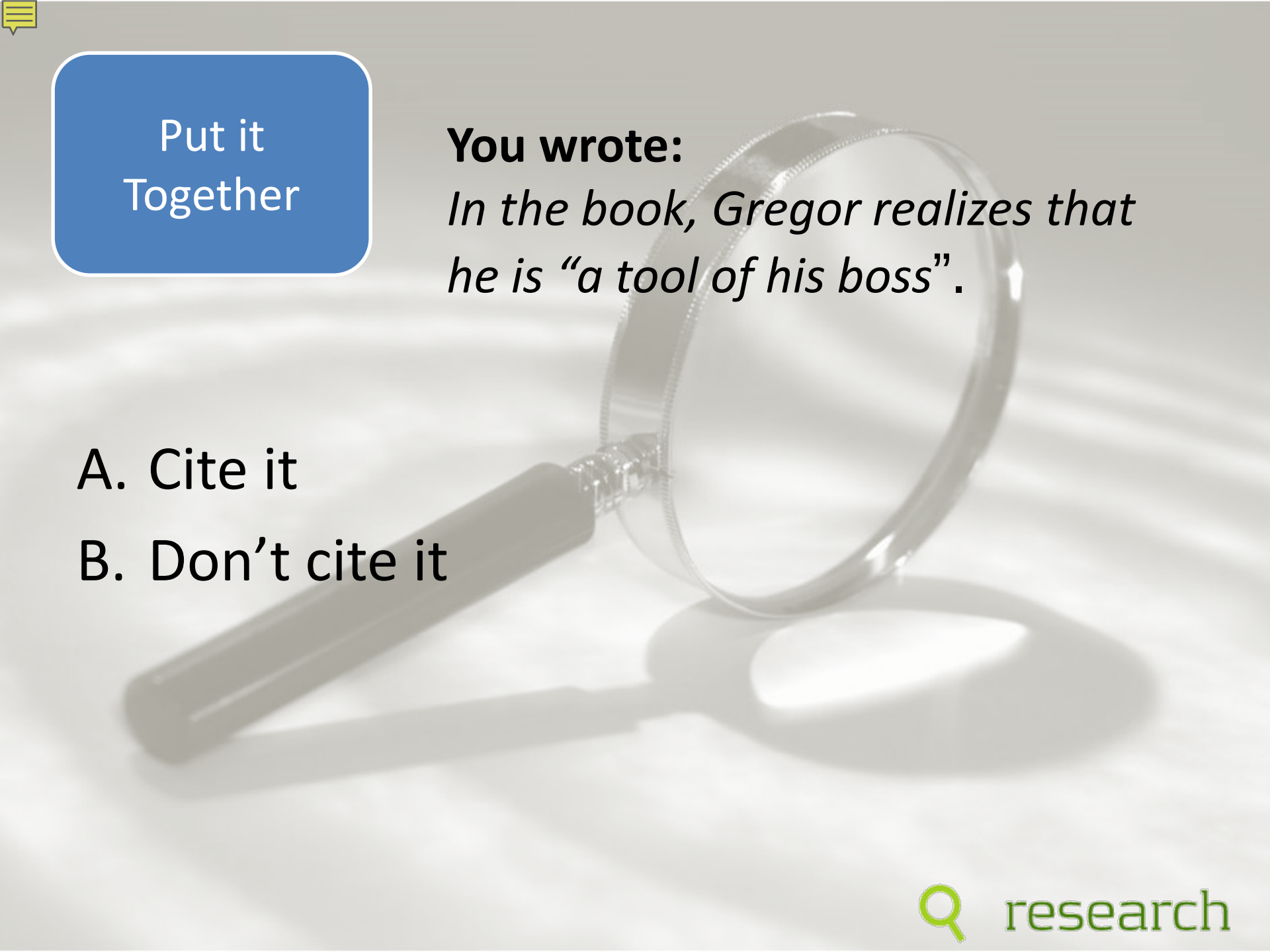
Put it Together

You wrote:

In the book, Gregor realizes that he is "a tool of his boss".

A. Cite it

B. Don't cite it



Put it Together

You wrote:

According to the report, 7 out of 10 students prefer green Universities.

A. Cite it

B. Don’t cite it

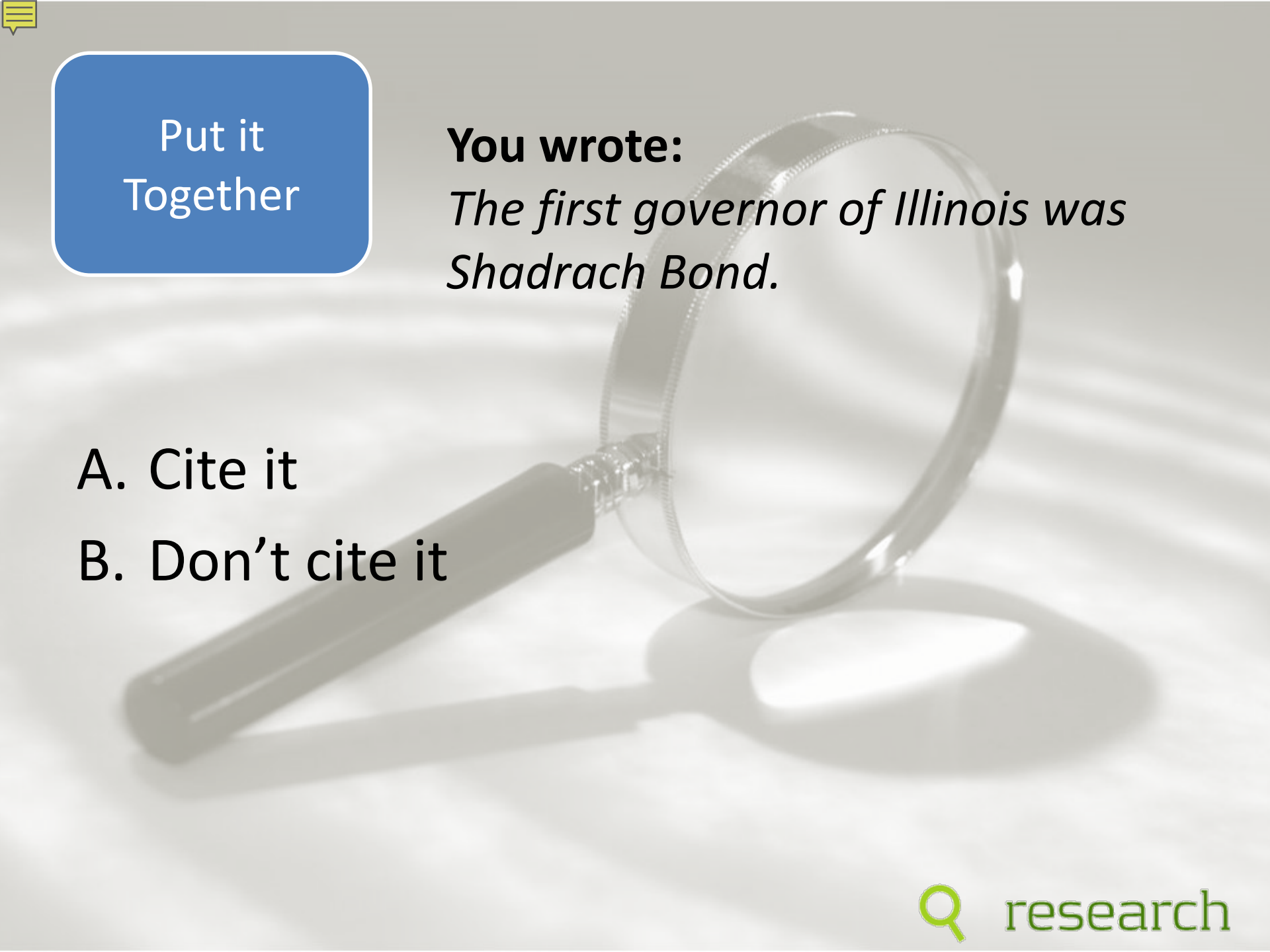
Put it Together

You wrote:

The first governor of Illinois was Shadrach Bond.

A. Cite it

B. Don’t cite it



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Put it Together

Know how to cite

- What format is your instructor requiring? APA? MLA? Chicago Style?
- Keep track of your sources while your doing the research so you can cite them when you're done

Put it Together

What should you do at this stage?

- Pull out the details and ideas from your sources.
- Organize everything in a way that makes sense.
- Understand what plagiarism is and make sure it's clear which ideas are yours and which come from other sources.
- Pick a citation style and stick to it.

Put it Together

Where can you get help at this stage?

- Library's Citing Sources page
- NoodleBib
- SOS workshops on APA and MLA citing
- Your instructor
- The Writing Center
- Ask a Librarian

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