

At the beginning of the semester, I didn't really think of myself as a super strong researcher. In the past, I would usually just look up a few sources, pick the easiest ones to understand, and use them without really thinking too much about how reliable they were or how they connected to my argument. I also didn't pay much attention to how research is different depending on the subject. I mostly just focused on finishing the assignment instead of actually learning from the research process.

Now, I can see that I've improved a lot, especially while working on my social commentary and starting my funding proposal. I've learned how to find better sources and actually analyze them instead of just summarizing them. I've also gotten better at comparing different sources and using them together to support my ideas, which connects to Research Outcome I. For example, instead of relying on just one article, I've been trying to bring in multiple perspectives and use them to build a stronger argument. I've also started to think more about credibility, like whether a source is trustworthy or biased.

Another way I've grown is understanding how research and writing work in different academic fields, which relates to Research Outcome J. I've realized that different topics require different types of evidence and ways of communicating ideas. For example, when working on my proposal, I've had to include things like estimated costs and practical solutions, which is different from just writing an opinion-based essay. This has helped me see that research isn't just about information, but also about how you present it depending on your audience and purpose.

In the future, I want to keep improving my research skills by finding even stronger sources and doing deeper analysis instead of just basic explanations. I also want to get better at organizing my ideas and making my arguments more clear and convincing. Overall, I feel like I've grown from someone who just completed research assignments to someone who actually understands how to use research to support my ideas and communicate them effectively.