

## Research Log: *Tuesdays with Morrie*

As you search for your resources electronically and in Dunn Library itself (as you answer items 2 and 4 below), maintain a **Research Log**. For each step you take in finding your resources, record the process you followed and the results you found by listing the following pieces of information about the search

- Date and time
- The goal of your search. That is the question you are pursuing or the information you are seeking. This provides a rationale for your search.
- The tool or source used (catalog, search engine, journal index, information guide, encyclopedia, or librarian)
- Search strategy. That is the exact combination of terms and operators used in database search, index or table of contents, etc.
- The results. If the search yielded no usable sources, indicate that fact. Otherwise, give the citation information for the sources found.
- Obtaining the sources. Describe what you did to see a copy of this source. This might include viewing the source on a computer, finding the material in the library, or requesting the source via interlibrary loan. If the source was not obtained at the same date and time that the search was done, indicate the date and time that the source was obtained.

“Ask me anything,” Morrie always said. So I wrote this list:

Death	Greed	Society
Fear	Marriage	Forgiveness
Aging	Family	A meaningful life.

(p. 66 of *Tuesdays with Morrie*).

1. This list of topics can give rise to a wide variety of more specific questions related to *Tuesdays with Morrie*. For example, one specific question related to death is “What are the Jewish customs around death?” This question is related to the book because Morrie was Jewish. Based on your reading of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and your own interests, write a more specific question related to one of the very broad topics listed above. You should generate your own question; you may not use the question about Jewish customs around death.

2. Identify three to five sources that will provide you with sufficient background understanding to be able to further narrow your topic and begin to formulate a thesis (see below). These resources are most likely to be subject encyclopedias or similar sorts of secondary sources.

In finding these resources, be sure you are also adhering to the following guidelines:

- At least one of the resources should be available online through the Dunn Library web page. It’s OK if it is also available in print in Dunn Library so long as you use the online version.
- At least one of the resources should be available in print in Dunn Library. It’s OK if it is also available online so long as you use the print version.
- At least one book.

3. Write a preliminary thesis statement. A good thesis statement states a position, it does not merely state both sides of the issues. A good thesis statement is specific and warrants further discussion.
4. Identify five sources (different from those listed above) that you can use to support your thesis statement.

In finding these resources, be sure you are also adhering to the following guidelines:

- At least one of the journal articles should be in a journal that the library receives in print. It’s OK if online access to this article is also available so long as you use the print version, not the online version.
- At least one of the journal articles should be available in full text through one of the electronic databases Dunn provides. It’s OK if this article is also available in print so long as you use the online version.

5. Write a one-page, typed **Reflective Essay** that addresses the following questions:
  - What did you learn about the information resources at Simpson?
  - What would be helpful in the future to learn about the library and research?

When you turn in your assignment on \_\_\_\_\_, please put your answers to the five questions first, your reflective essay second, and a copy of the first page of each of your sources third.