

# Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

<http://www.transitioning2college.org>

## Transcript of *Tips for Research Success*

### Introduction:

**Brian:** Hello.

**Jason:** Hey, Brian, it's Jason. Do you have a minute?

**Brian:** Sure, what's up?

**Jason:** Well, I'm in the library. And I know you told us a lot about what to do over here, but I have this research paper to do and I'm totally lost.

**Brian:** Where are you?

**Jason:** I'm in the library over by the pay phones. Where are you?

**Brian:** I'm right behind you.

**Jason:** What are you doing here?

**Brian:** I'm checking my email. Do you have the assignment with you?

**Jason:** Yes, it's right here.

**Brian:** Oh, good. Well, let's sit down and take a look at it.

**Jason:** Okay.

### Tip1: Understand Your Assignment:

**Brian:** This is the key to any research paper—understanding the assignment. So let's see what we've got here. It needs to be at least 750 words. You need to have at least three works cited. It needs to be in MLA format. When's it due? Jason, this paper is due on Friday.

### Tip 2: Get an Early Start:

**Jason:** Yeah, I know.

**Brian:** That's two days from now.



**Jason:** So?

**Brian:** Okay. This is something you've never done before. Two days is cutting it kind of close.

**Jason:** It's 750 words. It's not that long.

**Brian:** That's what I used to think, but you never know what can happen. Maybe your articles won't be readily available. Maybe the assignment is trickier than you thought. Maybe you have some questions, and you want to ask your professor. The more time you leave for the assignment, the more you'll overcome some of these challenges and problems.

**Jason:** I guess that makes sense, but three articles should be pretty easy.

**Brian:** Maybe you're right. What's your topic?

**Jason:** The effect of television violence on children.

**Brian:** Okay. Well, I'll let you go ahead and get started. I'll be right over there if you need me.

**Jason:** All right.

**Brian:** So, how's it going?

**Jason:** Not too good. I haven't found anything.

**Brian:** Well, I was trying to tell you. Research is n't like ordering fast food at a drive-through.

[Dreamscape] **McLibrary guy:** Welcome to McLibrary. How can I help you?

**Jason:** Yes. I'd like three articles on the effects of television violence on children.

[Reality] **Brian:** Let's take a look and see what you've got. Um, Jason, you're using Google.

### **Tip 3: Do Not Over-Rely on Google**

**Jason:** I know. I usually have really good luck finding stuff on it.

**Brian:** I would definitely try some of the library resources first before going to a search engine like Google or Yahoo. It's that fast food mentality again.

[Dreamscape] **Brian:** If you're not careful, it can be like fast food—never really sure what you're gonna get.

**Jason:** These aren't about television violence. Hey! Who wrote this?

[Reality] **Brian:** The library has research databases that can lead you to quality information.

**Jason:** Well, I did find this one thing on Google. It's this paper that someone else wrote about the topic.

#### **Tip 4: Avoid Plagiarism:**

**Brian:** Don't even think about it. Using that paper is plagiarism, and that's cheating.

**Jason:** But it wouldn't hurt to look, would it?

**Brian:** You don't want to risk it. You could accidentally borrow a line or two from the paper and then BOOM, your professor has a plagiarism case against you. They take that stuff really seriously here. You could get expelled.

**Jason:** Okay. Well, what about these research databases?

**Brian:** You know. I could show you them online, but I'm not sure which one's the best one for your topic. Let's get some help.

**Jason:** Okay.

#### **Tip 5: Ask Questions:**

**Mary:** Hi.

**Jason:** Hi.

**Mary:** Hi. Can I help you?

**Jason:** Yeah, do you have anything on the effects of television and violence on children?

**Mary:** Television and violence on children. I bet you're doing a research paper for Dr. Howard's English class, aren't you?

**Jason:** Yeah. How did you know?

**Mary:** I was helping two other students from your class this morning on the same topic. So, how about if we go over to some of the computers and I can show you how to use the research databases to find a couple of articles? Will that help you?

**Jason:** Okay.

**Mary:** Okay. Great.

**Brian:** It looks like you're in good hands. I'll see you later.

**Jason:** Okay. Thanks. Later, Brian.