Pre-Literature Search Worksheet: Get Started
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-chem
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-biology
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-phys

Writing tip 1: Choose a topic you understand.
Activity 1: Discuss with your instructor. Record the topic that you’re interested in below.
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Writing tip 2: Read appropriate sections of your textbook (tertiary literature) or another source (a secondary source, like a review article) to get background information on your topic before looking at the primary literature.
Activity 2: Write the name of the background source you used below and briefly summarize how you used it.
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Writing tip 3: Start with a general topic, narrowing your focus according to the literature you find.
Activity 3: My general topic is:
________________________________________________________________________________________
The topic could be narrowed/focused in the following ways:
________________________________________________________________________________________

Reference Consulted
Literature Search Worksheet: Find an Article
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-chem
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-biology
http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/clermont-phys

**Writing Tip 4:** The article you find should contain several of the following sections: title, abstract, introduction, experimental, results, discussion, acknowledgements, and references.

**Activity 1:** First, read the title and abstract to get an overview. Summarize.
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**Activity 2:** Next, read the last paragraph of the introduction. Does the author state what is new about the material or state specific research questions that were addressed? Explain.
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________________________________________________________________________________________

**Activity 3:** Browse the headings for any data table included in the article. What does the data tell you?
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________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

**Activity 4:** After these preliminary steps (activities 1-3), describe how this article will assist you within the context of the larger research project.
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Reference Consulted