This pathfinder outlines basic research steps used to locate information….and using APA format!

1. **Select your topic:** __________________________
   
   *Example: computer crimes.* (For other topic ideas, follow your assignment, or look in the table of contents or the index of your textbook.)

   **Other related subject words** that might be useful in searching your topic?

   *Related topics for this example: computer security, hackers, ethics, viruses, privacy and computers, identity theft, firewalls*

2. **Use the online library catalog to find a BOOK or VIDEO on your topic.** Try the subject words or phrases you listed above.

   **Record the call number and complete citation for that book or video.**

   **Basic form:** Call number
   
   Author, B. A. (Year of publication). *Book Title: Capital letter also for subtitle.* Place of publication: Publisher.

   Call number: __________________________

   Citation: ____________________________________________________________

3. **Use periodical databases to find MAGAZINE, JOURNAL or NEWSPAPER articles on your topic.** Try either *EbscoHost* or *Opposing Viewpoints* to start.

   **Find TWO relevant articles, and give a complete citation for each.**


   a. ________________________________________________________________________

   b. ________________________________________________________________________
4. **Use Google or Yahoo! to find a useful Internet site on your topic.**

   a. Give the complete address (URL) of that web site:

   *Example: [http://www.occc.edu/library](http://www.occc.edu/library)*

   __________________________________________________________

   b. Website was last updated: ____________________________

   c. Organization or individual that created the web page:

   __________________________________________________________

   d. Does this web page give you information useful for a research paper?

   Yes___  No___

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**Optional:**
For background information on your topic, use materials in the **REFERENCE** section. The *LC Outline* handout summarizes subject areas, and allows you to browse the Reference shelves.

**List the call number and complete citation for one relevant Reference book.**

*Example:*  GT 3930 .T48 2009


Call number: ________________________________

Citation: __________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________

**Congratulations, you have started researching!**

☀ Ask a librarian if you have other questions.