So...You Have a Research Paper Due Tomorrow!

How the TRU Library can still be of assistance, even at the last minute.
Do you have a research paper due tomorrow?

• Obviously, last-minute research and all-nighters aren’t ideal, but they happen to most students at least once or twice.

• Here are 5 steps to help you get the most out of your limited time: where you can cut corners, and where it’s important to put in the work, no matter how short on time you are.

• You may not get an “A,” but you can still make efficient use of your time and reduce your anxiety...and the library can help!
5 Steps for Completing your Paper

1. Admit to yourself you have a research project to do

2. Identify your topic & develop an outline

3. Conduct smart research: look for quality academic sources

4. Don’t plagiarize

5. Ask for help if you need it
1. Admit to yourself you have a research project to do
2. Identify your topic & develop an outline

• A 2500-word essay sounds overwhelming

• But a 1-page introduction, 2 pages for each of four arguments, and a 1-page conclusion...that’s more manageable!

• Your outline will also help keep you on track as you write
2. Develop an outline, continued...

**Introduction:** Get the reader’s attention and state the thesis

**Background:** an overview of relevant information

**Body**

**First Point**
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples

**Second Point**
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples

**Third Point**
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples
- Supporting evidence, facts & examples

**Conclusion**

**References**
3. Conduct smart research: look for quality academic sources

- More is not better, at this point
- Scholarly articles are probably your best bet
- Where to find them? The TRU Library
3. Look for quality academic sources, continued...

- Use the Library’s Discovery Search Tool
3. Look for quality academic sources, continued...

- Scan titles and ABSTRACTS to select the most relevant titles
- Limit your search to Journal Articles
Get Instant Citation Help
4. Don’t plagiarize

- Once you have your research material, it’s tempting to start cutting and pasting.

- But it is NOT worth the risk. A lower grade on a paper isn’t nearly as big a problem as being reported to the Academic Integrity Committee.
4. Don’t plagiarize, continued...

Better to put in a long, late night, and do it right:

• Read the DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION sections
• Read for IDEAS, not quotes
• Paraphrase the ideas in the appropriate sections of your outline
Reading an Academic Article

Introduction
Literature Review  Where did this come from?

Methods
Data Collection  What is it?
Survey Instrument
Sample
Results
Analysis

Discussion
Conclusions  What does it mean?

References  Where should I look next?
5. Ask for help if you need it

http://www.tru.ca/library/how_do_i.html