

# Flinders tips for your Research Project



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inspiring achievement

## 1. Choosing the right topic and research question

Finding the right topic and question for your Research Project can often be challenging. It is essential that you choose a subject area that you are genuinely interested in and can find substantial information on.

*Not sure what your interest or passion is?*

**Take a look at Flinders 3MT (3 Minute Thesis Competition).** The 3MT page includes a collection of videos from PhD researchers who explain what they are investigating, how they are doing it, and why their research will have a real impact in the world. The best part: they are only 3 minutes long! These videos can be used as inspiration for your own Research Project and are fantastic tools for learning how research impacts the community.

**CHECK SOME OUT HERE → [flinders.edu.au/3mt](http://flinders.edu.au/3mt)**

*Considering research into a potential career path or university degree?*

**Try the Flinders Course Navigator,** a free online tool with over 180 job listings and a range of University courses that match them. Make the connection between your areas of interest and how a University degree can lead to your dream job.

**START NAVIGATING YOUR JOURNEY HERE → [flinders.edu.au/courses/course-navigator.cfm](http://flinders.edu.au/courses/course-navigator.cfm)**

**Course Navigator → 1 → 2 → 3**

Below is a list of seven 'types of work', each contains a number of questions for you to consider. Read through each of them and indicate which type (s) that you agree with.

If more than one type interests you, feel free to select more than one category.

- Analytic or Scientific**  
Do you like using ideas and logic to find solutions to problems?  
Would you like to work in a job that allowed you to observe, research and analyse results?
- Creative or Artistic**  
Do you like performing or creatively expressing ideas?  
Would you like to work in a role that enables you to design, perform, decorate or write?
- Helping or Advising**  
Do you like helping or teaching other people?  
Would you like to work in a job that allowed you to discuss, instruct, inform, treat or listen?
- Nature or Recreation**  
Do you like sports or the environment?  
Would you like a job outdoors that involved caring for living things, conservation or sports?
- Organising or Clerical**  
Do you like to organise and plan things?  
Would you like a job that involves developing procedures, budgeting or staffing in an organisation?
- Persuading or Service**  
Do you like communicating with or persuading people?  
Would you like a job that involves selling, negotiating, promoting or serving?
- Practical or Mechanical**  
Do you like to know how things work? Do you like to work with your hands?  
Would you like a job that allowed you to fix, design or utilise technology or equipment?



## 2. Gathering the right resources

Successful projects begin with a solid foundation of research and a wide range of resources. Flinders offer a number of opportunities for you to gain access to leading researchers, academic resources, and excellent information to assist with your project.

### *Looking for top academic sources?*

**Flinders University Library** invites SACE students to register as users to access services and an expansive collection of resources to assist with your project. Plus it's FREE! Be sure to complete a registration form and have it signed by both yourself and your Year 12 Coordinator.

**TAKE A LOOK** → [flinders.edu.au/library/services/borrowing/year-11-and-12.cfm](https://flinders.edu.au/library/services/borrowing/year-11-and-12.cfm)

### *Want to gain information from a field expert?*

**Ask a Flinders Expert** is a site which gives you access to academic staff from a wide range of research areas – whether it be cancer research to tourism, psychology, film, sleep and plenty more. Once you've located your expert, you can view their area(s) of research, publications they have written, plus their contact details.

**FIND AN EXPERT HERE** → [flinders.edu.au/research-degrees/find-a-research-area.cfm](https://flinders.edu.au/research-degrees/find-a-research-area.cfm)

#### **Quick tips for contacting experts in the field:**

- Write from your school email address.
- Use formal language and form:
  - *I.e. Dear, Yours Sincerely... etc.*
- Don't forget to tell the expert what school you are from and explain the purpose of your Research Project.
- Decide on 3 -5 key questions to ask the expert and keep them clear and succinct
- Sign-off using your full name

### *Interested in Science, Mental Health, Entrepreneurship or the Human Body?*

**MOOCs** are 'Massively Open Online Courses' freely available for you to participate in. Hear from successful entrepreneurs in 'The Biz Playbook' or learn about what we're made up of in 'The Human Body as a Machine'. With experts from various fields and academic interviews, you may even be able to site a MOOC as one of your resources.



**START A COURSE OR REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY** → [flinders.edu.au/moocs](https://flinders.edu.au/moocs)

### *Stuck for ideas about finding the right resources?*

**Flinders News** includes highlights and up-to-date news stories about cutting edge research that Flinders academic staff and students are working on.

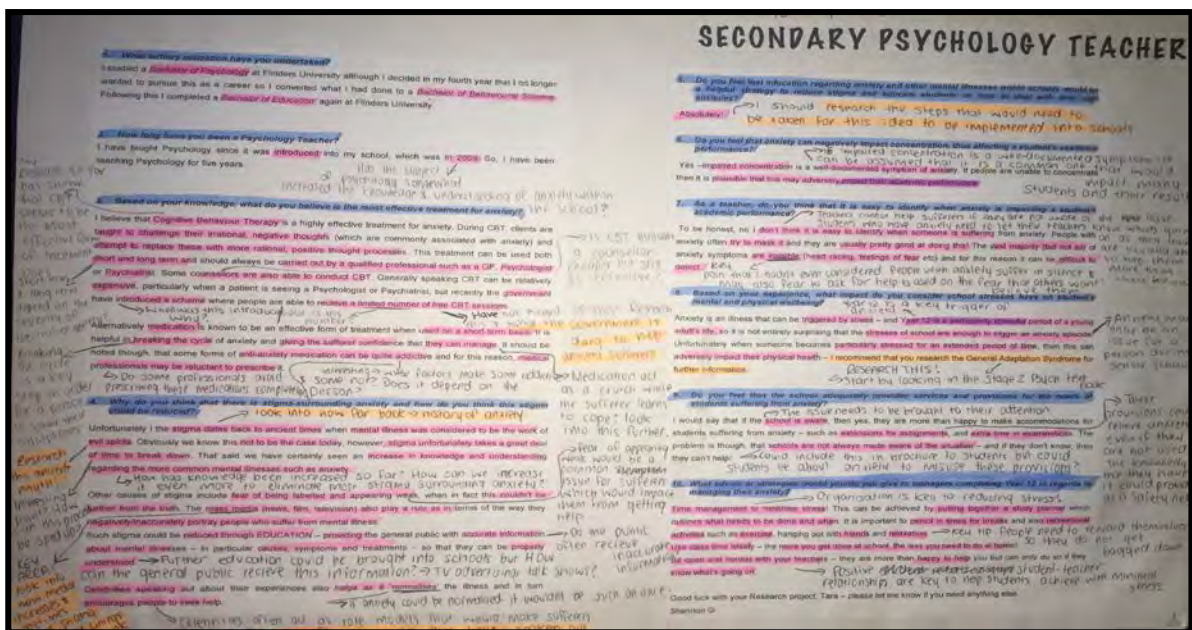
**CHECK IT OUT HERE** → [flinders.edu.au/news](https://flinders.edu.au/news)

### 3. Annotating and reflecting on your sources

Developing your research is an essential element of your project and is something that we here at Flinders believe is a great skill to have! To help you out we have developed a few tips to successfully annotate and reflect your sources in producing your folio:

- o Go further than simply highlighting key words - **annotate your sources** to show in-depth thinking. Ways to do this include writing notes on your hard copy sources, colour coding aspects of your research that relate to your chosen capabilities and expressing why the information is useful and how it could extend your research.

Example of annotating sources:



- o **Produce tables to summarise your research.** This can be a fantastic way to start thinking about what direction you would like your outcome to go and demonstrates that you can think critically about your sources.

Example of a summary table:

Key points established through the research process Factors which effect the education of Indigenous Australian Children				
Factor of education:	What I have learnt:	Sources:	Possible solutions:	Reference to capabilities:
Teaching quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That teacher retention is vital for rural communities</li> <li>• Fully qualified indigenous teachers are the best for indigenous children as they have an understanding of the culture and lifestyle of the children</li> </ul>	Teaching Indigenous Children: Listening To And Learning From Indigenous Teachers Interview Miriam Rose Ungunmer-Baumann	Providing opportunities for the many indigenous teaching aids to obtain university qualifications. Encouraging relationships between teachers and the community. Programs whereby indigenous teachers teach in urban schools to broaden their understanding.	<b>Literacy:</b> This was something I learnt about from my reading and annotating. <b>C&amp;C Thinking:</b> Miriam provides the perspective of both an educator and elder (excellent)
Positive role models for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children need to have relationships with older individuals who demonstrate that education is worthwhile</li> <li>• In rural communities there are too few of these individuals which has resulted from high levels of unemployment.</li> </ul>	Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) Interview Brian Clancy	Encouraging initiatives such as the IYLP and other opportunity based programs in more rural communities. Creating more employment opportunities within rural communities.	<b>Intercultural understanding:</b> Encouraging movement between indigenous communities and urban areas to break down stigmas and promote healthy relationships.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order for children to want to attend school, they must be able to foresee a future for themselves which includes a job, or further training and/or education.</li> </ul>	Reconciliation Action Plan Interview response on behalf of Tony Abbott and his cabinet	Constructing more employment opportunities in rural areas and providing opportunities for indigenous people to attend university/complete training in urban centres.	<b>C&amp;C Thinking:</b> considering the likelihood and realistically thinking about how we can make jobs in rural communities
Boarding schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boarding schools are excellent for providing opportunities but students become homesick quickly and often the funds are not available for them to attend without a scholarship.</li> <li>• This is not a viable option for all indigenous students.</li> </ul>	CASE STUDY: Rostrevor College Interview Barrie Bryan CASE STUDY: Tiwi College Interview Brian Clancy	Ensuring that opportunities remain open for indigenous children to attend boarding schools if they so choose- really like idea of Tiwi College (week boarding school) Provide mentoring system with those who attended boarding schools in the past.	<b>Literacy:</b> evaluating different programs and constructing interviews. <b>Intercultural understanding:</b> Tiwi College allows students to return home on weekends, hence less home sickness
Rural schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural schools are challenged by cultural and social issues whereby students struggle to understand the benefits of education as they cannot see where it can take them within their community.</li> <li>• Behavioural issues and quick teacher turn over.</li> </ul>	CASE STUDY: Saint Francis Xavier School, Daly River Interview Miriam Rose Ungunmer-Baumann	Funding and access to resources is essential to improve educational outcomes of rural schools. Teacher retention and quality indigenous teachers are essential. Breakfast programs or other alternatives are required to encourage kids to come to school.	<b>C&amp;C Thinking:</b> creatively thinking about different programs which would enthuse kids about education <b>Intercultural understanding:</b> understanding that indigenous children learn in a different way
Parent Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents need to understand education and how to appropriately support their children</li> <li>• Indigenous parents love their children dearly but often do not have their own appreciation of education to pass onto their children.</li> </ul>	Interview Fr. McCoy Interview Brian Clancy	Providing education for parents themselves so improve educational outcomes of rural schools. Creating relationships between schools and parents so that they do not feel out casted.	<b>Intercultural understanding:</b> acknowledging that parents are an integral part of the education process and should not be disregarded by educators
United Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to improve indigenous educational outcomes we must work with indigenous people, rather than just for them.</li> </ul>	Acknowledged by almost all sources	Encouraging indigenous teachers; providing appropriate funding; ending racial discrimination in the workforce.	<b>Literacy:</b> this was a point which stood out to me throughout my entire research process

# 5 Key Flinders Tips to help you achieve optimal results for your Research Project!



## Flinders Tip 1:

Treat the Research Project like a 20 credit STAGE 2 subject. Don't ignore it or just aim to pass as this subject can influence your ATAR!

## Flinders Tip 2:

Planning is key. Set yourself a timeline and stick to it, otherwise the days and weeks will slip away from you.

## Flinders Tip 3:

Always back up your work in multiple places – e.g. *USB, Dropbox, Google Drive etc.* The more secure your work is, the less stressed you will be.

## Flinders Tip 4:

Have an alternative plan in mind for each stage of the process as not everything may go according to plan. For example, have plenty of experts in mind to contact in case one doesn't reply – you have plenty of backups.

## Flinders Tip 5:

Have fun and know that Flinders is always here to help if you need us!

## STAY CONNECTED WITH FLINDERS UNIVERSITY



### OPEN DAYS

14-15 AUGUST 9:30 AM-4PM

Open Days are your opportunity to explore the Flinders campus, attend a course information session and chat with current students. Find out about the range of courses available, take a tour of the campus, collect freebies, listen to the Fresh 92.7 live broadcast and win some awesome prizes!

[flinders.edu.au/opendays](http://flinders.edu.au/opendays)

### Subscribe to Flinders Explorer

Flinders Explorer is an e-newsletter written for high school students, by current University students. They'll tell you what University is like from their experience, share tips for where you're at in your schooling, and help you make the right choices because they've been where you are right now.

[flinders.edu.au/explore](http://flinders.edu.au/explore)

