Help, I'm Stuck! How Do I Continue my Research?

Working on a research project can be a stressful experience, especially when there seems to be no way to continue. Nonetheless, no problem is unsolvable! Here are some tips for what to do when you don't know what to write next.

1 Focus on one topic

The most common problem of research is trying to encompass too much. The key is to identify where the problem lies. Revisit the following areas:

- Research Topic: After writing, does it seem too large? Focus on a subtopic.

- Examples: Focus only on the essential information. Anything unrelated should go unmentioned or added to the footnote.

- Paragraph Specific: Did the segment take a left turn? Go back to earlier sentences and see where it went off track.

2 Reread

Reviewing what you have already written is an excellent way to help writer's block. Not only will you be able to fix grammatical mistakes, but it will also allow you to identify problem areas.

3 Re-evaluate Rephrase Rethink

After you have identified the problem area, it is time to think of a solution:

- Re-evaluate: Do the explanation and examples add up? Compare you theoretical framework with the data of your research.
- Rephrase: Sometimes the phrasing of ideas may throw off your work.
- Rethink: Maybe after exploring and writing, the idea just doesn't quite add up? Rethink how you connected the ideas and identify the issue.

4 Add! Add! Add!

Another common problem is having incomplete or unfinished arguments. In those cases, it is always important to be open to search for more material and sources to fill the the missing gaps.
Search for:

- Textbooks
- Online databases
- Critical works about the related subject

Ready?

Remember that writing is a progress that requires revisions. Don't be afraid of making mistakes.

For more Information on the CDCL and resources: