



Preparing Students for Research Writing

Friday, January 30, 2026

Liz Corbett, MA TESL, MEd Special Education

Why research?

- ▶ What experiences bring us here today?
- ▶ Complete the link with the Microsoft Form.

Why research?

- ▶ Grades 11-12 Writing Standards for Literacy in the Content Areas [WCA]
- ▶ Research to Build and Present Knowledge
 - 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Public Libraries in Massachusetts

- ▶ Boston Public Library System
- ▶ Minuteman Library System
- ▶ SAILS Library Network

Boston Public Library System

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Boston Public Library website. It includes a language selection dropdown, a Google Translate logo, and links for 'Hours & Locations', 'Help', and 'Log In / My B...'. Below this is the BPL logo and a search bar with 'Catalog' and 'Keyword' dropdowns. A red navigation bar contains links for 'About', 'Visit', 'Books & More', 'Services', 'Learning & Research', 'Events', 'Support the BPL', 'Work at the BPL', and 'Donate Now'. The main banner features a photograph of a library interior with the text 'Research at BPL'.

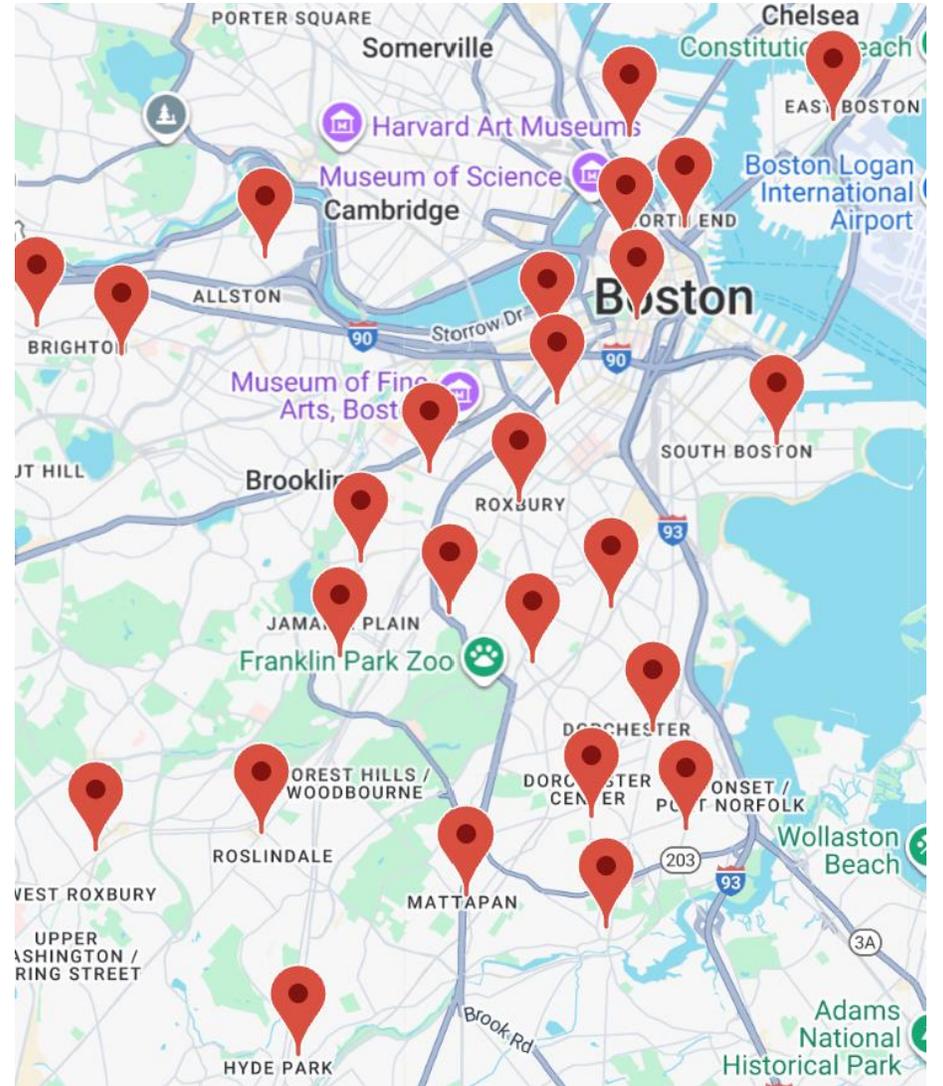
Boston Public Library combines powerful research tools, expert librarian guidance, and significant special collections to offer a rich and fulfilling research experience for all. With BPL you can:

- Learn about your own family or community history
- Find answers to business or legal questions so that you can get to work
- Discover historical gems from Boston and beyond
- And much, much more

[Browse Databases](#) [Browse Guides](#) [Special Collections](#) [Ask a Librarian](#)

I am looking for...

- [Genealogy Resources](#)
- [Academic Journal Articles](#)
- [Industry Research Tools](#)
- [Local Boston History Resources](#)
- [Archives, Arts & Rare Books](#)
- [Digital Collections](#)



Minuteman Library

 Our Libraries Booklists Services About Help Center My Account 			
Acton Memorial Library Acton, MA 978-929-6655 View Website	Robbins Library Arlington, MA 781-316-3200 View Website	Ashland Public Library Ashland, MA 508-881-0134 View Website	Bedford Free Public Library Bedford, MA 781-275-9440 View Website
Belmont Public Library Belmont, MA 617-489-2000 View Website	Public Library of Brookline Brookline, MA 617-730-2370 View Website	Cambridge Public Library Cambridge, MA 617-349-4041 View Website	Concord Free Public Library Concord, MA 978-318-3300 View Website
Dedham Public Library Dedham, MA 781-751-9284 View Website	Dover Town Library Dover, MA 508-785-8113 View Website	Framingham Public Library Framingham, MA 508-532-5570 View Website	Franklin Public Library Franklin, MA 508-520-4941 View Website
Holliston Public Library Holliston, MA 508-429-0617 View Website	Cary Memorial Library Lexington, MA 781-862-6288 View Website	Lincoln Public Library Lincoln, MA 781-259-8465 View Website	Maynard Public Library Maynard, MA 978-897-1010 View Website
Medfield Public Library Medfield, MA 508-359-4544 View Website	Medford Public Library Medford, MA 781-395-7950 View Website	Medway Public Library Medway, MA 508-533-3217 View Website	Millis Public Library Millis, MA 508-376-8282 View Website
Morse Institute Library Natick, MA 508-647-6520 View Website	Needham Free Public Library Needham, MA 781-455-7559 View Website	Newton Free Library Newton, MA 617-796-1360 View Website	Morrill Memorial Library Norwood, MA 781-769-0200 View Website
Sherborn Library Sherborn, MA 508-653-0770 View Website	Somerville Public Library Somerville, MA 617-623-5000 View Website	Randall Library Stow, MA 978-897-8572 View Website	Goodnow Library Sudbury, MA 978-443-1035 View Website
Waltham Public Library Waltham, MA 781-314-3425 View Website	Watertown Free Public Library Watertown, MA 617-972-6431 View Website	Wayland Free Public Library Wayland, MA 508-358-2311 View Website	Wellesley Free Library Wellesley, MA 781-235-1610 View Website
Weston Public Library Weston, MA 781-786-6150 View Website	Westwood Public Library Westwood, MA 781-326-7562 View Website	Winchester Public Library Winchester, MA 781-721-7171 View Website	Woburn Public Library Woburn, MA 781-933-0148 View Website

Minuteman Resources

Boston Globe

The Minuteman Library Network provides free unlimited access to [bostonglobe.com](#) to resident cardholders of all member libraries through a 72-hour access pass. Includes access to all current Boston Globe content, including puzzles, games, the Globe Magazine, and podcasts/videos. Also includes Boston Globe Archive articles back to 1872 and access to the Globe E-Paper.

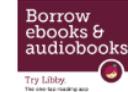
Resource provided by the Minuteman Library Network



Digital Collection (from OverDrive)

The Digital Collection is always open! Borrow popular ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and streaming video from Minuteman's shared collection. Read or listen on a mobile device with the [Libby App](#) from OverDrive.

Resource provided by the Minuteman Library Network



New York Times Digital

Enjoy free access to [NYTimes.com](#). Click the title above to get a 72-hour pass and read unlimited articles, courtesy of Minuteman Library Network. Coverage includes 1981 to Current, plus historic coverage 1851-1922, as well as the NY Times App and 5 Premium Archive (1923-1980) articles per day. For details, see the [New York Times FAQ](#) in the Help Center.

Resource provided by the Minuteman Library Network



New York Times Digital (In Library)

Enjoy free access to [NYTimes.com](#) on public Minuteman library computers and WiFi. Visit any public Minuteman library and create an account or log in at [www.nytimes.com](#) to read unlimited articles. Coverage includes 1981 to Current, plus historic coverage 1851-1922. For details, see the [New York Times FAQ](#) in the Help Center.

Resource provided by the Minuteman Library Network



State Resources

Novelist

Not sure what to read next? Find read-a-likes, recommendations, and more, all curated by librarians and publishing insiders. (Log in with your Minuteman library card.)

Resource provided by the Minuteman Library Network



Academic OneFile

Academic Onefile contains 8,000 academic journals, the majority in full-text, available in HTML and PDF formats. In addition it contains hundreds of podcasts and transcripts from NPR, CNN, and the CBC, as well as full-text New York Times content from 1985.

Resource provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library System with funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Agriculture Collection

Articles on farming, horticulture, and agriculture-related fields from nearly 200 authoritative journal titles.

Resource provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library System with funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Britannica Escolar

Enciclopedia K-8 para hablantes nativos y estudiantes que aprenden español / K-8 encyclopedia for native speakers and students learning Spanish

Resource provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library System with funding from the



Questions

- ▶ Grades 11-12 Writing Standards for Literacy in the Content Areas [WCA]
- ▶ Research to Build and Present Knowledge
 - 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to **answer a question** (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

What kinds of questions occur naturally in your classroom environment?

What kinds of questions do your students discuss with their peers?

Questions

High school graduates are more likely to be employed and tend to earn more money. But are high schools doing enough to prepare students for college and work?

Should everyone have to turn out to vote?

In the metaverse, a network of virtual worlds, we can travel, connect, and build lives—all through avatars, without leaving home. But are these experiences real? Do virtual lives reflect our authentic selves?

Should we live for today or leave a legacy for later?

Problem Solving

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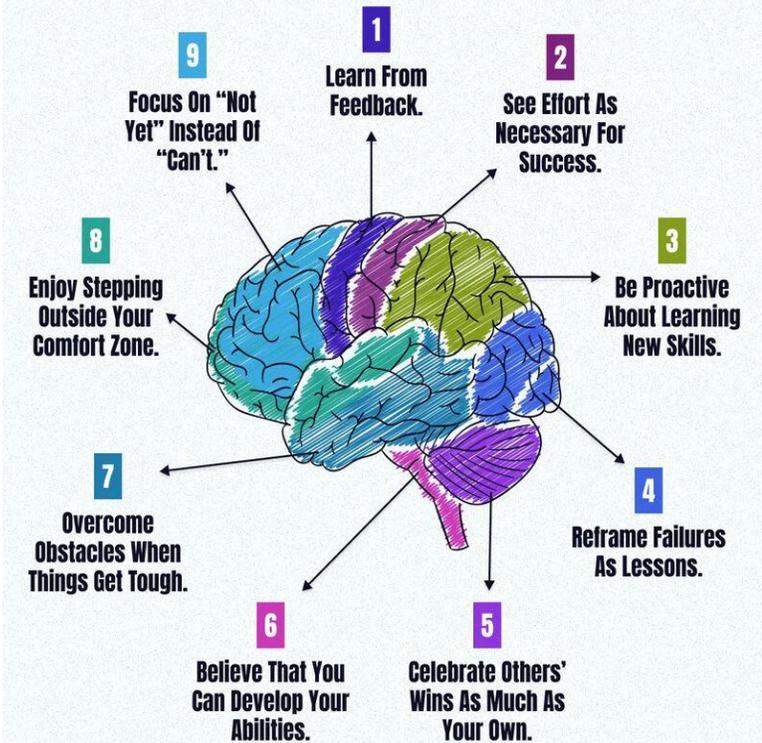
What kinds of problems are presented in required course materials?

What kinds of problems are relevant to the daily lives of your students?

Problem Solving



9 Ways To Develop A Growth Mindset



Want a high-res PDF of this sheet? Subscribe to The [Growth Mindset](#) newsletter.

Classroom Activities for Pre-Writing

- ▶ Before students begin to write any paragraphs, they can produce written products to support a research paper.
- ▶ A [source matrix](#) is a document that students use to track articles they have discovered, making the discovery process well-documented.
- ▶ Classroom [discussion activities](#) (with or without [note graphic organizers](#)) provide students opportunities to discuss and discover questions or problems related to classroom peers and community members.
- ▶ A [quote ranking](#) activity to have students select their quotes in small groups.

Classroom Activities for Pre-Writing

Graphic Organizer Research Paper Outline

Thesis Statement: _____ is an ethical application of AI.		
Why? Because? For example... (First title article and author goes here) Applications of AI can be ethical or unethical. Data, Society, and AI Ethics by Wesley Wildman.	Why? Because? For example... (Second title article and author goes here)	Why? Because? For example... (Third title article and author goes here)
MLA Citation (copy and paste) "Data, Society, and AI Ethics AI Development Accelerator." <i>Bu.edu</i> , 2025, www.bu.edu/aida/resources/video-library/data-society-and-ai-ethics/ . Accessed 6 May 2025.	MLA Citation (copy and paste)	MLA Citation (copy and paste)
Explanation (Why? How? So What?) "Economic incentives [of AI] are not bent in the direction of <u>ethics</u> " Wildman explains. <u>Perhaps the most relevant detail</u> in this video is how business and	Explanation (Why? How? So What?)	Explanation (Why? How? So What?)

Quotation Ranking Speaking Activity

Your Essay Prompt: *Over the course of this unit, you have gathered information about the variety of ways that people use language learning for the purposes of academic enrichment and personal growth. Write a description and analysis of Ruby Rossi's academic enrichment and personal growth through her multilingualism.*

Rank the quotes from 4 to 1 based on how likely you are to include the quote in your essay. Like rubric, 4 is the best score and 1 is the worst score.

Academic Enrichment

N e m e	N a m e	N a m e	N a m e	N a m e	<i>Many Benefits Come with Learning a New Language</i> by Kalli Damschen
#	#	#			"Studying a new language requires the development of a variety of skills that can be useful in and out of the classroom," writes Damschen. (p.23)
#	#	#			"A language often tells a lot about a country's culture and heritage,

Community College Course Catalog

English

- [EN 90* FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPOSITION I*](#)
- [EN 98* FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPOSITION II*](#)

EN 101 ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

EN 101 ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

This course focuses on critical reading, analysis, and composition. Students evaluate texts for credibility and relevance, making connections between sources and personal experience and thinking. Students produce at least 4000 words of formal writing, including essays written in multiple drafts, with emphasis on argument, coherence, development, audience awareness, MLA style for integrating and citing sources, and editing. 3 Credits Prerequisite: Students must place into EN 101 through the College's placement process, the English Department's end-of-semester portfolio assessment, or by successfully completing [EN 98**](#)

- ▶ Screenshot from Mass Bay's current course offerings.

Homework Assignment

- ▶ Grades 11-12 Writing Standards for Literacy in the Content Areas [WCA]
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Thank you!

We want your feedback. Please be sure to complete the evaluation.

Learn more about upcoming First Literacy Professional Development Workshops at www.firstliteracy.org/professional-development-workshops/

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