History as an Experiment

The Scientific Method

Step 1: Topic Selection Process
- Ask a Question
- Do Background Research
- Construct a Hypothesis
- Test with an Experiment
  - Procedure Working?
    - No
      - Troubleshoot procedure. Carefully check all steps and set-up.
    - Yes
      - Analyze Data and Draw Conclusions
        - Results Align with Hypothesis
          - Communicate Results
        - Results Align Partially or Not at All with Hypothesis
          - Troubleshoot procedure. Carefully check all steps and set-up.

The “Historic” Method

Step 1: Topic Selection Process
- Ask a Question
- Do Background Research
- Construct a Thesis
- Prove with Source Evidence
- Thesis Supported?
  - No
    - Revise your thesis, or if your research led you to other ideas, change it.
  - Yes
    - Analyze Thesis
      - Analysis Supports Thesis
      - Analysis Informs Future Projects
      - Draw Impacts and Conclusions
        - Conclusions and Analysis become background information for new questions, new arguments, and new projects.

Step 2: Becoming an Expert
- Construct Analysis

Step 3: Thesis Statement
- Step 4: Research Process
- Step 5: Making Sense of Your Research and Outlining Your Argument