

## Conducting Research (Times Square)

1. Start with an encyclopedia
  - a straight forward account of place
  - get basic information
2. Find Scholarly Account
  - Find books, possibly a general history of the state to know what was in Times Square
3. Go to Historical *New York Times*
  - Find 40-50-60 articles
  - Jot down names that keep coming up
  - Largest employers
  - (narrowing it down)
4. Local Library online search
  - Go online to NY Public Library
  - Type in Times Square
  - If it's not at NY Public Library, look at other local libraries
  - Look at related topics
  - Within a week, you should have hundreds of items when you don't know where to go
  - Use a category to organize information
5. Patterns
  - People
  - Streets
  - What are people talking about?
  - What are the main stories going all the way back?
  - Most places are only run by a couple of thousand people
6. Forming a Thesis
  - Start talking about things in 1970
  - Now, here's the situation in 1990
  - What happened in between to bring about the change?
  - In 1970...then in 1990. List 4 Major Changes
7. Next Chapter (for a book)
  - Next chapter will focus on something else, like meat packing.
  - What took place in between to bring about this change?

8. What are the 4 things taking place here that seem to come up most often?
  - Then you can see connections with other things.
  - Otherwise you're just collecting more and more information
  - You already know what you want to write about – just write it.
  - But there might still be more sources that you want to look for about that topic
  
9. Read reliable secondary sources first
  - You read a scholar's six books on a subject and you can understand the topic generally.
  
10. Graduate Students vs. Accomplished Historians
  - The only difference between a graduate student and an accomplished author is about 6 books – the scholar has had the time to manipulate the information on their topic and to explore many aspects of their topic
  - In graduate school, we learn how to think critically about a topic
  - Graduate students move from consumers to producers of information
  - Graduate students think like historians