# Reflection on The Research Process for Formal Analytical Report

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## Introduction

In my technical writing class of the Spring 2019 term at Lane Community College, I was assigned with a research project that would give me an opportunity to develop my communication and research skills and apply the principles of technical writing which I was taught in the class. I learned much about what goes into the research process and how to conduct research effectively.

## Topic of Inquiry

My research topic was on the Presentation softwares Prezi and PowerPoint. Prezi is a relatively new and different kind of presentation software than what we are accustomed to. PowerPoint is a well known software and easily a favorite for many presenters.

I centered on the question of which software is the better choice for college students. I chose to look specifically at ease of use of Prezi software, as it is a key factor in effective utilization of any software.

## Source Selection

I needed to find sources of information that described Prezi's functions and qualities and gave me an idea of whether it is easy to use and why.

I looked for sources that were most likely to be unbiased or that were likely to give me thorough information on factors contributing to Prezi's ease of use. I wanted scholarly articles, articles by technology websites, and online, personal (unpaid) reviews by actual users of Prezi.

These were the sources that were most likely to be accurate and to give me an informed perspective on my topic.

I found this source on google scholar and, based on the title, thought it would be a useful source: **Prezi versus PowerPoint: The effects of varied digital presentation tools on students' learning performance, (**Pao-NanChoua Chi-ChengChang, Pei-FenLuc). I chose not to use this source because even though it compared Prezi and PowerPoint, it discussed them in context of the effects on the audience, and was not related to ease of use at all.

.            **Prezi Presentation Software Review**, ([https://www.consumersadvocate.org](https://www.consumersadvocate.org)) was a fantastic website that displayed over 900 reviews of Prezi by different users. I was able to scroll through and read individual reviews, as well as see data showing the most common review comments.

The most difficult part of selecting sources was not in finding them, but in citing them correctly in APA format. Especially with webpages that did not contain complete information or that were more uncommon to be seen as APA citations, it was confusing figuring out how to collect the right information for my citations and then format it properly.

I was surprised to learn that Prezi is only able to be used with an internet connection. Although this can certainly be an inconvenience, it is accessible by any internet connected device through its website and does not require the software to be downloaded on to the computer. Additionally, many people found it difficult to learn the software initially. However, most users preferred the software for its more advanced functions once they overcame the difficulties of getting used to it. One of the most praised aspects of Prezi was its collaboration option, which allows up to ten users to access and work on the same presentation from different locations.

The online review platform was where I noticed a lot of people mentioning collaboration, as well as full of comments about the learning curve required to master it Online reviews also frequently mentioned the inconvenience of needing internet to use Prezi. Various scholarly articles also mentioned the collaboration aspect as well as highlighting its online accessibility.

The scholarly article **Review of a presentation technology: Prezi** ( Perron, B. and Stearns, A. A ) was a thorough piece that covered each of Prezi's unique factors and gave it context compared to other software. It gave me an idea of why someone might choose Prezi over PowerPoint. **Prezi Presentation Software Review**, [https://www.consumersadvocate.org](https://www.consumersadvocate.org)

**Takeaways**

I found the online review platform to be my most interesting and useful source. I think it is most authentic, albeit subjective, to read the opinions of real-life users of the software. Since my paper is written for the average software user, it was useful to know the opinions of average people and see the averaged feedback of all the reviews.

This project helped me to discover that I like doing research, and the key to not being intimidated by the project is to break down the work in to smaller chunks and to not have overly high expectations for your findings.

I would definitely peruse sources before settling on a very specific angle. Originally I wanted to have a broader scope of research but I found that sources were limited for certain topics. And It is

generally more helpful to feel like you have something to go off of when continuing the research. I also found that starting the work early and having checkpoints for getting work done made it easier to stay on track.

The outcome of my research gave me a very clear Idea of what the pros and cons of Prezi are according to the average user. I was able to give a well informed recommendation of what to expect for Prezi's ease of use. This is due to the abundance of online reviews available and the integration of different kinds of sources and perspectives.

After experiencing the ups and downs of the research process, here are my top three tips to other researchers:

1. To reiterate what I said earlier: It is important to peruse sources before settling on an angle for your topic. It is important to give an informed perspective to the reader and to be able to find reputable sources for the topic. It will save time to know what kind of information is available before developing a focus for your research.
2. I would recommend documenting all of the sources you encounter and summarising the information within them so you can easily come back to them later for reference. This was an assignment in my technical writing class and it was easily one of the best principles that I learned.
3. Integrate as many different sources as possible. It is more likely to give you an unbiased and accurate outcome.