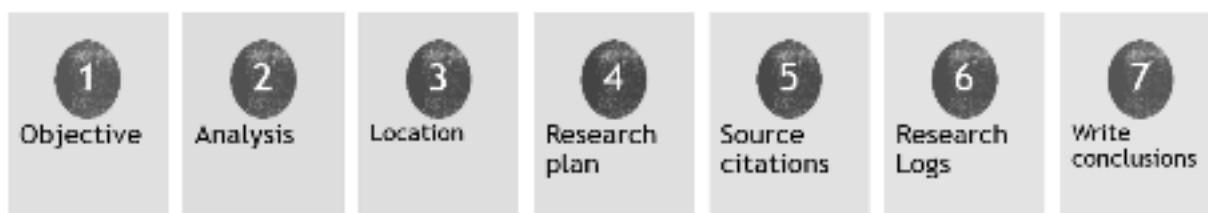


*What's keeping you from making progress in your genealogy research?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Research Like a Pro Process



Follow the steps with our Facebook group learning modules here: [14-Day Research Like a Pro Challenge Group](#)

### Research Project Document

Our template for using the Research Like a Pro process for a project helps you follow each step.

- Link to Google Doc: [Research Project Document \(google docs file\)](#) - clicking this link will ask you if you would like to create a copy of the template in your own Google Drive. A Gmail/Google Account is required.
- Docx File Download: [Research Project Document \(download docx file\)](#)



# Objective

## Day 1 - Research Question

Task: Analyze your tree and choose a simple research question such as “where did my ancestor die?” or “which John Smith” is my ancestor? Write it down in your research project document.

*The first time you try the Research Like a Pro process in 30 minutes a day, what kind of research question should you start with?*

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### Read More:

- [Productivity Counts: Making the Best Use of Your Family History Time](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 12: Productivity](#) - Podcast episode by Diana and Nicole
- [Doing a Genealogy Research Project from Start to Finish](#) - post by Nicole about her experience doing a project in the study group.
- [Research Like a Pro, Part 1: What's Your Question?](#) - post by Diana about choosing a question

## Day 2 - Objective

Task: Write an objective from your question using the key identifiers of complete names and birth, death, and marriage dates and places.

*What are some examples of key identifiers?*

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### Read More:

- [RLP 2: Research Objectives](#) - Podcast episode by Diana and Nicole about creating an objective
- [Am I Researching the Wrong Person? Research Objectives Can Help](#) - post by Nicole



# Analysis

## Day 3 - Timeline

Task: Gather and review sources that are already known about your relative and make a simple timeline. Tomorrow, you will analyze each event in your timeline for source and information.

*Why is it important to start your research project by reviewing what is already known about the subject?*

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### Read More:

- [Georgia Ann \(Lewis\) Dawson Timeline Analysis](#) - Example Timeline by Diana
- [Track Your Family with a Timeline](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 3: Analyze Your Sources](#) - Podcast episode by Diana and Nicole
- [Genealogy Evidence Analysis – Free Template and Lucinda Keaton Sample](#) - post by Nicole

## Day 4 - Analyze Your Sources

Task: Go through each event in your timeline and analyze the source (original, derivative, authored) and information (primary, secondary, unknown). Look for gaps and write down any questions or ideas you have in the sources to search section of your Research Project Document.

*What kinds of sources and information are preferred by genealogists?*

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### Read More:

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 2: Analyze Your Sources](#) - post by Diana
- [Original or Derivative Sources: What's the Big Deal?](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 32: Indirect vs. Direct Evidence](#) - podcast episode by Diana and Nicole



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# Location

## Day 5 - Locality Research (Background info)

Task: Choose a locality in your timeline and learn about it. Today you will add basic information about the locality to the background information section of your Research Project Document. Tomorrow you will list where to find the record sets.

*What are some of the most important things to include in a basic locality guide?*

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### Read More:

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 3: Where Did They Live?](#) - blog post by Diana
- [RLP 4: Locality Research Part 1](#) - podcast episode by Diana and Nicole
- [RLP 5: Locality Research Part 2](#) - podcast episode by Diana and Nicole

## Day 6 - Locality Research (Record Collections)

Task: Finish your locality research by creating a list of important record groups in the locality and where to find them online. You'll use the *FamilySearch* Wiki and Catalog.

*How can you accomplish this task with limited time?*

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### Read More:

- [The FamilySearch Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend](#) - post by Diana
- [Create Your Own Research Guide](#) - post by Diana
- [United States Record Finder](#) at the FamilySearch Wiki



## Research Plan

### Day 7 - Hypothesis

Task: Create a hypothesis based on what you learned from your timeline and source analysis.

*To create a hypothesis to test, you should:*

- A. *Choose the most likely scenario*
- B. *Make up a wild guess*
- C. *Include lots of source citations*

#### **Read More:**

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 4: What's the Plan?](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 6: Research Planning](#) - podcast by Diana and Nicole

### Day 8 - Research Planning

Task: Prioritize the records you have listed in "identified sources to search." Make sure you have at least 4 records to search but not more than 6-7 in your prioritized plan.

Why should your research plan include a short list or prioritized sources instead of a long list?

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#### **Read More:**

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 4: What's the Plan?](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 6: Research Planning](#) - podcast by Diana and Nicole

## Source Citations

### Day 9 - Source Citations

Task: Make 1-2 source citations for events in your timeline.



What are the five questions that guide source citations?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Day 10 - Source Citations Part 2

Task: Make 2 more source citations for events in your timeline.

*Elizabeth Shown Mills said, "Citation is an \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_."*

### Read More:

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 5: Where Did You Look and What Did You Find?](#) - post by Diana
- [Source Citations: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 7: Source Citations](#) - Podcast by Diana and Nicole
- <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/> - Elizabeth Shown Mills' Website
- [Diana's Citation Templates](#) - list of common citations Diana uses. You can see the elements of a citation and how they are arranged. Use the template by changing the information that applies to your source.
- [BYU Citation Templates](#)

## Research Logs

### Day 11 - Research Log

Task: Use your research plan and search the first 2-3 records in your plan. Log what you did in your research log with a complete source citation and a link to the record or database.



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*How much time does it take to complete a search and fill out a research log?*

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## Day 12 - Research Log

Task: Finish following your research plan and logging your searches. Abstract or transcribe any documents like wills or court records.

### Read More:

- [Research Like a Pro, Part 5: Where Did You Look and What Did You Find?](#) - post by Diana
- [Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 8: Research Logs](#) - podcast by Diana and Nicole

## Write Conclusions

### Day 13 - Report Outline

Task: Make an outline of what you're going to write using your research log and put everything into a logical order.

*How can you make the writing part less overwhelming?*

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### Day 14 - Report Writing

Task: Follow your outline and write a summary of your research. Include future research suggestions.

What should you write about for each search performed?



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**Read More:**

- [Research Like a Pro Part 6: Write it Up](#) - post by Diana
- [RLP 9: Report Writing](#) - podcast by Diana and Nicole

## Benefits of Researching Like a Pro

*What do you think you will gain from trying the Research Like a Pro process in 30 minutes a day?*

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