



Researcher's Creed

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1. **Check out as many sources on topic as possible;** ascertain if author had an agenda; filter truth from opinion. Visit multiple sources. Vary research venues. **There's a Rule of 3 that must agree.**
2. **Take legible, precise notes—copious notes.** But steer clear of plagiarism. Err on the side of caution.
3. **Fact check details** in the writing and re-writing stages. Don't trust your memory.
4. **Don't fudge** historical/contemporary events to dramatize or bolster your storyline. Understand the difference between "anecdotal" and what really happened.
5. **Keep source material organized**—books, articles, links, interviews.
6. **Research should pepper your novel,** not overwhelm. A little goes a long way.
7. **Hone/Trust your instincts.** Learn to sniff out nuggets of research gold.
8. **Pray a lot and trust God** for those serendipitous encounters that can only be explained by Him.