FINDS: Florida Research Model

Focus on the information need
What is my assignment or the information problem to be solved?
What are my questions and/or thesis sentence?
What types of information will be needed?
How will I organize my search plan?
What keywords and alternate search terms would be best for my topic?
What search terminology and techniques should I use?

Investigate resources to look for an answer
What criteria should I use to evaluate and select the information sources?
Where are the sources located and what information does each source provide?
Where is the information within each source and how do I locate it?
What problems am I having in finding information and how do I solve these problems?
How can I find what I need and respect the rights of others to equal access to information?

Note and evaluate facts
What criteria should I use to evaluate the information I found?
Does the information I found relate to my topic and questions?
How do I take notes so that they are in my own words?
Which facts do I need to create a citation for each source?
Do I have facts from all points of view on my topic?
Do I have the information I need and is my research complete?

Develop information into knowledge for presentation
How should I present the information to best share what I learned with others?
How do I organize the notes for my final presentation?
Have I analyzed and used the information effectively?
Are my conclusions based on the research evidence?
How do I organize my citations into a bibliography and what format will I use?
How do I integrate technology to enrich, publish, or present my project?

Score presentation and search
What criteria will I use to judge my product?
Did I present the information in the best way?
Was my research process efficient and effective?
How could I improve my search process next time?

Go to http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu/finds/ for online tools that support FINDS