



# **Government Documents Go To College**



# Welcome!

**Stephani (Nia) Rodgers**

Public Affairs Research Librarian  
Virginia Commonwealth University



“

Widespread public access to knowledge, like public education, is one of the pillars of our democracy, a guarantee that we can maintain a well-informed citizenry.

*Scott Turow*

1

# Getting Students Interested

How to Make Government Documents Accessible



5

## Enthusiasm and Expertise

---

- ◆ Sell, sell, sell (enthusiasm)
- ◆ Location, location, location (easy to find)
- ◆ Staff knowledge (not shuffled from one person to another)



## **Tailor the Discussion to Point of Need**

### **Datasets**

NCES, Labor, Census – bring these up to your graduate level students often as sources for further research data, or as a means to find interesting variables for their own work.

### **CRS Reports**

For people in my areas of research assistance, these are an invaluable resource. Similarly, Homeland Security Digital library or PubMed.



# Age Appropriate Programming

Panels, Puzzles, and More



## Other Avenues to Connect

### iTunes/Google

- ◆ Library Youtube pages
- ◆ Audio podcasts

### Twitter/Facebook

- ◆ Cool doc of the day.
- ◆ Today in Gov history
- ◆ Interesting images

### Newsletters

- ◆ Newest online documents
- ◆ Changes to public databases
- ◆ News alerts





# Don't Forget Professors!

Win them over to use free articles and information as part of OER initiatives. Get them, get their students.



## Slowing Down the Train

Great! Now you (the librarian) can find everything I need to write my paper!



A photograph of a grand, classical architectural interior, likely a museum or a historical building. The scene is dominated by a large, white marble column in the foreground, which is part of a larger structure with multiple levels of arches and niches. The architecture features intricate carvings and classical motifs. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the stone and the depth of the architectural details. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and intellectual pursuit.

**What?  
Honor Code Violation?**



**I am bound by the honor code**

So I can't do it for you.

**I am obligated to provide access**

So I have to find the fine line.

**Compromise – I will lead you to water...**

And you will drink!



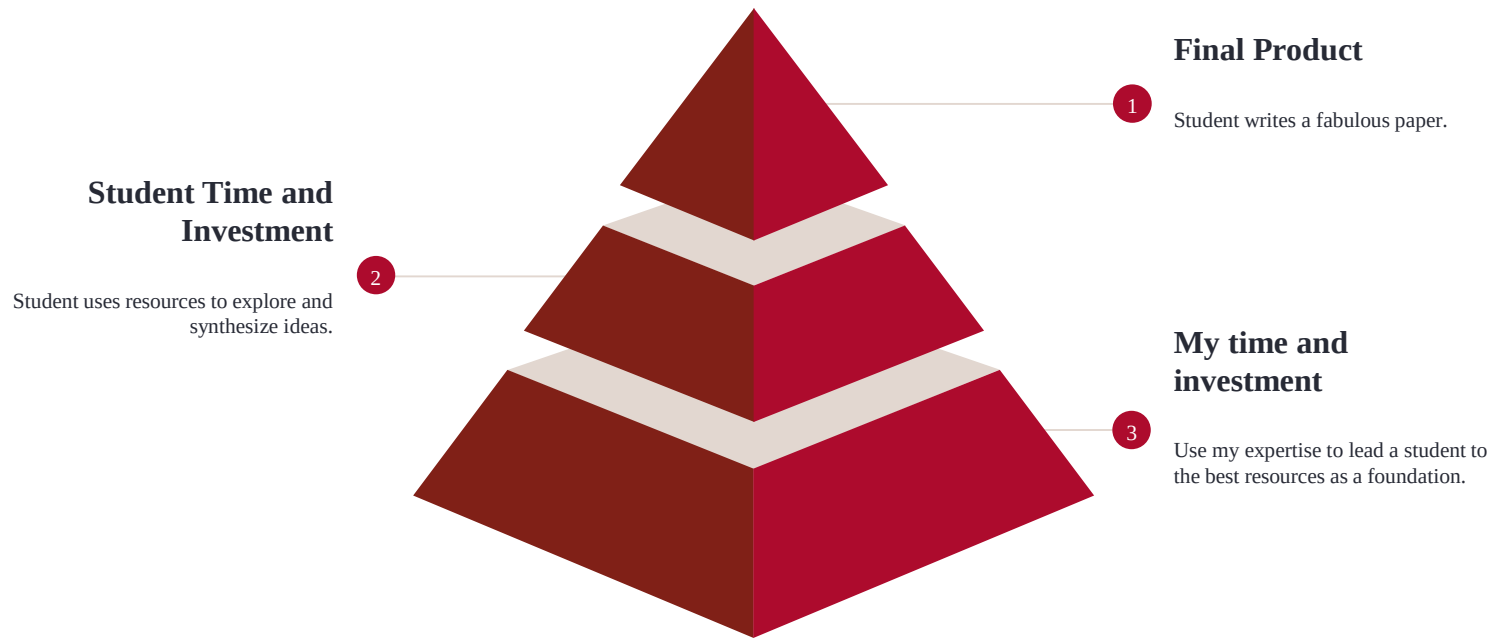
## Here's Where It Can Get Tricky

---

- ◆ Balance FDLP obligations with student learning objectives
- ◆ IRB and other institutional rules governing data and studies
- ◆ Citations and credit



# Pyramid of Assistance





## **Permission to tap out**

---

- ◆ When students aren't trying to do the work for themselves
- ◆ When students are using the information to violate Code of Conduct or Honor Code
- ◆ When you have helped all you can!



# Thanks!

**Any questions?**

You can find me at [slrodgers@vcu.edu](mailto:slrodgers@vcu.edu)





## Credits

---

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- ◆ Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- ◆ Photographs by [Unsplash](#)