"It’s My First Real Lit Review”
MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM READING TO WRITING

Rebecca Price
rebecca.price@pitt.edu
University of Pittsburgh

LESSONS LEARNED AT THE FLIGHT 93 / 9-11 RESEARCH GROUP

Student needs help refining a topic.

- Mentor...
  - explains real-world relevance
  - builds student confidence in reading, writing, researching, project management, and teamwork

Student needs help finding the right kind and right number of resources.

- Mentor...
  - introduces student to discipline lingo
  - teaches student to find appropriate research in places specific to the discipline

Student needs help writing a synthesis.

- Mentor...
  - reinforces the difference between “summary” and “synthesis”
  - helps student keep research question in mind
  - focuses on the iterative nature of the literature review process

Student needs help right here, right now!

- Mentor...
  - provides just-in-time instruction, via text, IM, Whatsapp, or whatever means necessary

Mentors include...
- practitioner mentors, like art therapists, librarians, and high school teachers
- graduate students
- and undergraduate peers.

Just-in-time instruction means mentoring undergraduate researchers through...
- questioning
- searching
- narrowing
- synthesizing
- and questioning again.