

# Research Like a Pro with DNA

Take a DNA Test		
atDNA, Y-DNA, mtDNA	Whom to test & informed consent	Testing strategy – where to test and where to transfer
1. Assess Your DNA Matches and Analyze Your Pedigree		
Review DNA matches, contact matches	Basic clustering – Leeds Method	Calculate possible relationships with Shared cM Project Tool
2. Organize DNA Results in a Diagram and Family Tree		
Lucidchart or Diagrams.net and diagram	Add matches to master family tree like Ancestry	Consider personal genealogy software
2b. Create a Research Objective		
Identify questions that can be answered with DNA; Theory generators - Thrulines	Choose an ancestor with a relationship question	Consider the limitations of the type of DNA you're using
3. Create a Timeline & File Organization		
Gather all previously found documentary sources	Create a timeline by adding events from known sources	Decide on a file organization system and file naming protocol
3b. Create Source Citations		
Create citations for in the timeline by answering Who, What, When, Where, Wherein	Add commonly used documentary citations to citation template document	Create citation templates for DNA matches, reports, tools, and articles
4. Analyze Sources and DNA Matches		
Add labels to the source, information, and evidence in timeline	Create diagram for your objective with matches on the relevant line	Analyze relationships with matches using Shared cM Project data
5. Locality Research and Ethnicity		
Determine MRCA with matches and study relevant locations	Make locality guides in places relevant to the research question	Study ethnicity of test takers and matches
6. Explore DNA Tools and Methodology		
Try using a new DNA tool or method	Genetic networks, clustering and pedigree triangulation tools	Segment data and chromosome browser tools
7. Research Planning – Select DNA Tools & Methods		
Summarize known facts and create a working hypothesis	Identify sources and methods	Create a prioritized strategy to search 3 records and use 2-3 DNA tools or methods
8. Follow Your Plan, Research Logging, and Writing as you Go		
Add entries to log for each result from documentary sources	Add entries to log for each DNA tool or method	Write notes and analysis as you go along
9. Correlate Findings and Write Research Report		
Outline your findings, create tables to correlate data	State objective and background info; then discuss findings and analysis	Conclusion, summary of findings, and future research suggestions
10. Finish Report, Publishing, Privacy, and Copyright		
Edit report and incorporate feedback; get permission for copyrighted images	Ask permission from matches to publish and/or share the report publicly	Make private any matches who don't respond