As a Pre-Nursing major, I knew from day one that I was going to be faced with a vast amount of responsibility to hold my grades as a top priority. From my very first week at Radford, I found myself in the welcoming environment of the McConnell Library, the only place I could diligently work with no distractions. I attended seminars through my University 100 and Core 101 and 102 classes introducing me to the variety of resources available here, and was astounded to feel so supported by a building full of books. When faced with the task of a research paper, I knew immediately where I would be working on the assignment.

To formulate a quality research paper, it is essential to use quality resources when obtaining information. The McConnell Library is where I found myself among a vast variety of resources for my Core-102 researched argument. Although an ordinary search engine online can provide enormous amounts of information, the number of results and the credibility of these sources may be detrimental to the final project. The McConnell Library super search database allows for the use of keywords and a variety of refining tools to obtain only the most helpful information for a project.

For my paper, I knew I wanted to cover an aspect of gender inequalities in today’s society. I began to look for academic journals, books, and scholarly articles through the McConnell Library super search database by using key words such as “gender inequalities” and “gender stereotypes”. As expected, thousands of results were immediately at my fingertips. I then used the refining tools available to narrow the information down to only publications within the last ten years and those that were written in English. After reading through a variety of abstracts of articles, I was able to narrow down my topic to arguing that stereotypes lead to
gender inequality. While doing so, I added the most helpful sources to my folder so I could easily go back to thoroughly read them. This was very helpful and saved time when going back to read the articles in depth.

When citing these articles in my paper and in my reference page, it was relieving to have easy access to a simplified, color-coated resource to help with citations in any format. The library also offers references to format a paper to any type of citation method. These were all very useful, as I am not very familiar with APA formatting.

Overall, the library and the resources available have helped me to develop new research skills and grow as a scholar. From formulating a topic, to polishing my final draft, the library has been an imperative resource for this research paper. I am now able to say that anxiety towards research and formatting methods no longer affects me the way it used to.