While the idea of the I-Search paper is not new, it incorporates many of the concepts that are espoused in cultural competency teaching. Rather than calling the book a “text,” Macrorie describes it as a “contextbook,” whose aim is to explain how a story has developed. It is the opposite of the textbook, which, according to Macrorie, encourages a regurgitation of facts and a blind faith in the storyteller (preface). The aim, then, is not only to explain what the author knows but how the author came to know it. By examining how the author has come to know or understand certain ideas or facts, the research process becomes more personal and less mysterious. By reading the author’s story, the student can more readily see himself or herself identifying with the author and is willing to replicate the act of research. The 350-page book is an intriguing intertwining of relevant stories that makes knowledge both interesting and accessible. Macrorie’s research in writing the book demonstrates the process of the I-Search paper.

Macrorie defines the I-Search paper as a research paper designed to fill a need or desire in the student’s life (64). It contains the following steps:

1. The student describes what he or she knew about the topic when they first started writing.
2. The student explains why he or she is writing the paper.
3. The student explains the “Search” or the story of the hunt.
4. The student explains what he or she did or did not learn.

Macrorie’s *The I-Search Paper* is written with students in mind. It is easy to read and is designed to remove the intimidation factor associated with research. The book is written to address students’ need to make learning both useful and accessible.

Historically, those who teach composition have relied on those in the scientific community to “legitimize” the field. It may be helpful to know that the I-Search process is very similar to the IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) research process used in the sciences and social sciences, as can be seen in the following link: [http://owl.excelsior.edu/posts/view/52](http://owl.excelsior.edu/posts/view/52). The I-Search paper would work well with those who teach in the English, social science, and science departments.