

Introduction

Part I: The Elements of Research

Chapter One

Thinking Critically About Research

- What is “Research” and Why Should I Use It?
- What’s Different about Academic Research?
- Primary versus Secondary Research
- Scholarly versus Non-Scholarly Sources
- Sources that are Both Scholarly and Non-Scholarly?
- The Internet: The Researcher’s Challenge
- Evaluating the Quality and Credibility of Your Research
- Complicating Factors in Evaluating the Credibility of Internet Research

Chapter Two

Understanding and Using the Library and the Internet for Research

- Defining “The Library” and “The Internet:” An Introduction
- Researching in the Library
 - * Books
 - * Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers (Periodicals)
 - * Periodical Indexes
 - * Accessing an Article
 - * Periodicals from Electronic Databases
 - * Some Final Tips
 - * Other Library Materials (Government documents, Interlibrary loan, Theses and dissertations, rare books and special collections)
- Researching on the Internet
 - * Email
 - * A Word about “Netiquette”
 - * The World Wide Web
 - * Search Engines
 - * Metasearch Engines
 - * Web Directories

Chapter Three

Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Avoiding Plagiarism

- How to Summarize: An Overview
- How to Quote and Paraphrase: An Overview
- When to Quote, When to Paraphrase
- Four Examples of Quotes and Paraphrases
- How to Avoid Plagiarism in the Research Process
- Plagiarism and the Internet

Chapter Four

How to Collaborate and Write With Others

- Why Collaborate on Writing?
- Considering (and Balancing) the Two Extremes of Collaboration
- Peer Review as Collaboration
 - * A “sample recipe” for how peer review can work
 - * A few last things to remember about successful peer review
- Collaborative Writing on Larger Projects
- Three Ideas for Collaborative Projects
 - * Research Idea Groups
 - * Research Writing Partners
 - * Collaborative Research Writing Projects
- Collaborating With Computers and the Internet

Part II: Exercises in the Process of Research

Chapter Five

The Working Thesis Exercise

- Working with Assigned Topics
- Coming Up with Your Own Idea
- Brainstorming for Ideas
- Brainstorming with Computers
- Moving From Ideas to Topics with the Help of the Library and the World Wide Web
- Writing Your Working Thesis
- The Process of Writing The Working Thesis
 - * A Sample Assignment
 - * Questions to Consider with a First Draft
 - * Review and Revision

- * A Student Example: “Preventing Drunk Driving by Enforcement” by Daniel Marvins

Chapter Six

The Annotated Bibliography Exercise

- What is an Annotated Bibliography?
- Why Write Annotated Bibliographies?
- “How many sources do I need?”
- Using Computers to Write Annotated Bibliographies
- The Process of Writing the Annotated Bibliography
 - * A Sample Assignment
 - * The Annotated Bibliography and Collaboration
 - * Questions to Ask while Writing and Researching
 - * Review and Revision

Chapter Seven

The Critique Exercise

- What’s a Critique and Why Does it Matter?
- Selecting a Text to Critique
- Starting With a “Close Reading”
- An Example of a Close Reading
- Criteria: Your Reasons for Evaluation
- The Process of Writing the Critique
 - * A Sample Assignment
 - * Questions to consider as you write your first draft
 - * Review and Revision
 - * A Student Example: “A Critique of ‘Self-Report of ADHD Symptoms in University Students’ by Ashley Nelson

Chapter Eight

The Antithesis Exercise

- Revisiting the Working (and inevitably changing) Thesis
- Why Write an Antithesis Essay?
- Generating Antithetical Points in Five Easy Steps
- Finding Antithetical Points on the Internet
- Strategies for Answering Antithetical Arguments
- But You Still Can’t Convince Everyone...
- Assignment: Writing the Antithesis Essay
 - * Questions to consider as you write your first draft
 - * Revision and Review

- * "A Student Example: "Are Casinos Good for Las Vegas? Defending Legalized Gambling," by Kerry Oaks

Chapter Nine

The Categorization and Evaluation Exercise

- Revisiting your Working Thesis
 - Why Categorize and Evaluate Evidence?
 - Dividing, Conquering, Categorizing: A Few Rules to Follow
 - Some Sample Categories
 - Charting Your Categories
 - Assignment: Writing the Categorization and Evaluation Exercise
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- * Questions to consider as you write your first draft
 - * Review and Revision
 - * A Student Example: "Categorizing My Research on Drug Advertising" by Jeremy Stephens

Part III: The Research Project

Chapter Ten The Research Essay

- A "Research Essay" Instead of A "Research Paper"
- Getting Ready: Questions to Ask Yourself About Your Research Essay
- Creating and Revising a Formal Outline
- The Introduction
- Giving Your Readers Background Information
- Weaving in Evidence to Support Your Points
- Accounting for the Opposition: Antithetical Arguments
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Chapter Eleven

Alternative Ways to Present Your Research

- Not all Research Comes in “Papers” or “Essays”
- The Research Portfolio/Narrative Essay
 - The Assignment
 - A Student Example: “The Story of My Working Thesis Malfunction” by Amanda Kenger.
- The Web-based Research Project
 - The Advantages of the Web-based Research Project
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 - * A Broad, Diverse, and International Audience
 - * Facilitates Collaboration
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 - * Time, Time, Time
 - Web Publishing versus “hypertext”
 - A Web Writing Recipe: What You Need to Get Started, and Where You Can Go To Get Help
 - The Assignment
 - A Student Example: “The Corruption Surrounding University Athletics Web Site,” By Casey K. Copeman
- The Poster Session Project
 - The Assignment
 - A Program-wide Poster Session: The Eastern Michigan University “Celebration of Student Writing”

Chapter 12

Citing Your Research Using MLA or APA Style

- What is Citation For, Anyway?
- Finding Out More About MLA and APA Citation
- An Abbreviated Guide to MLA Style
 - * Parenthetical Citation
 - * Formatting Works Cited Pages, Annotated Bibliographies, and Works Consulted Pages
- Working with APA
 - * Parenthetical Citation
 - * Formatting Reference Pages and Annotated Bibliographies