

How to Write a Good Research Paper

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Why do you need to learn how to write a research paper?

- Because in high school and college you will be asked to write ***many*** research papers, and you need to learn what goes into writing a successful paper.
- This PowerPoint presentation will give you step-by-step directions on how most high school and college teachers/professors expect you to write a basic research paper.

Learning Targets:

- ✓ You will learn how to **choose a topic**.
 - ✓ **Depends on the length of your paper, choose a narrower topic for a short paper, and a broader topic for a longer paper.**
- ✓ You will learn how to write a **thesis statement**.
 - ✓ **One sentence that summarizes what your paper is about, or what you are trying to prove. (Last sentence of your introduction)**
- ✓ You will learn how to explain the differences between a primary and secondary source.
- ✓ You will be able to understand the difference between plagiarism and acceptable paraphrasing.
- ✓ You will be able to learn how to edit your paper, and make necessary changes.
- ✓ You will learn how to use “parenthetical notations.”

☞ Step-by-step instructions on how to write a research paper

☞ The topic

☞ The thesis or introductory statement

☞ The outline

☞ Selecting and analyzing sources & selecting websites

☞ Compiling information on index cards or in Microsoft Word

☞ Plagiarizing, paraphrasing, and direct quoting

☞ Bibliography & the proper format

☞ Proofreading & the cover page

☞ Rubric

You should also have:

1. A note-taking handout.

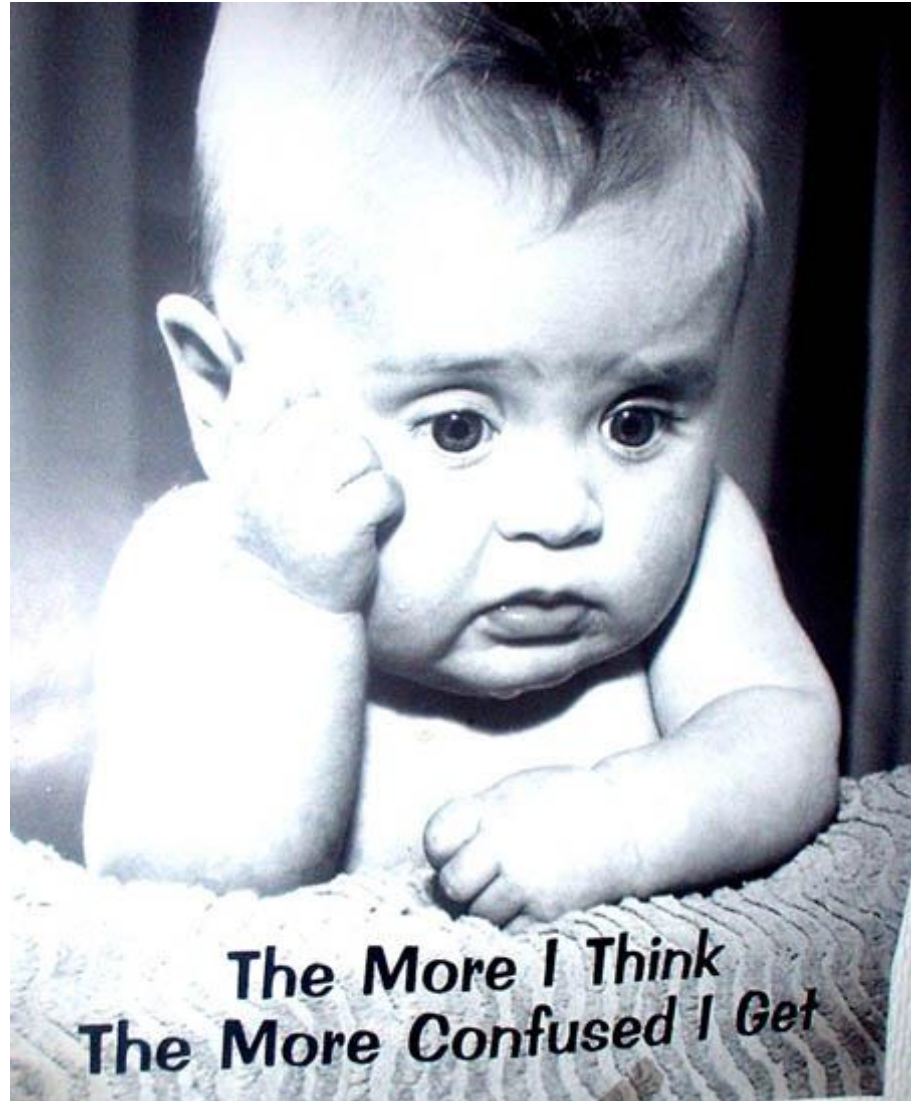
As we go through the assignment, take notes, or write down any questions you have

2. A sample outline

3. Examples of plagiarizing v. paraphrasing



Where Do We Begin?



Overview:

Requirements (*What you need for your paper*) √

Topic Questions (*What you need to put into your paper*) √

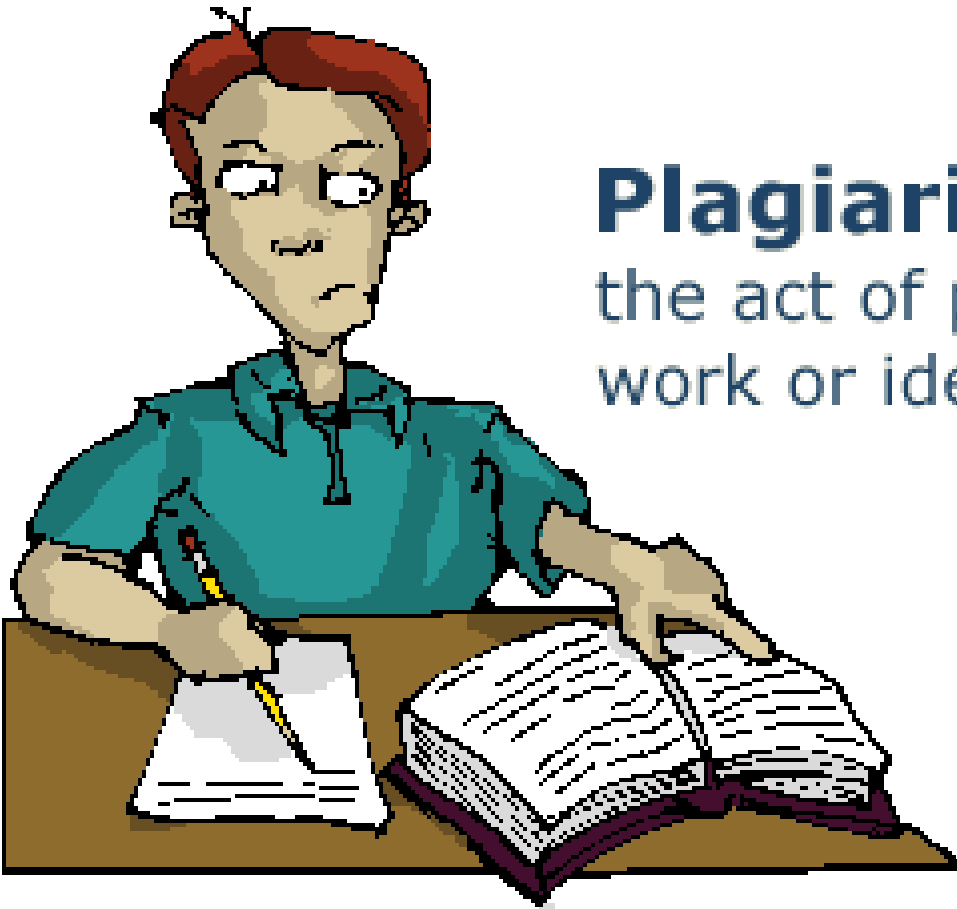
Choices (*The disasters you will research*) √

How to write your research paper: Follow these instructions step-by-step!

1. Your outline should be written before you start your paper. It organizes your thoughts and creates a plan so you know how your paper will look.
2. Your introduction or thesis statement tells the audience what you will explain in your paper. It will let the audience know what to expect from reading your paper.
3. You are required to use a minimum of three sources. You must have at least one book , one website, and one encyclopedia (*online or book format*) **No wikipedia.org; mtv.com; or youtube.com unless by permission of Mrs. Nuzzo*

**As you research the answers to the topic questions
you can use the information two ways:**

1. If it is from a non-computer source, you can use index cards to copy the information needed, or can type the information on a documents in Microsoft Word.
2. Make sure you have a heading on the index card or word document so you know the topic or question you are answering with this information
3. Always **SAVE** any information you type into Microsoft Word! Make sure you save it to your number...NOT to the computer you are working on. **SAVE** information frequently!!!



Plagiarism:

the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.



Paraphrase!!!

Plagiarism v. Paraphrasing Samples

Direct quote from research:

“Japan’s beautiful Mount Fuji last erupted in 1707 and is now classified as dormant. Dormant volcanoes show no signs of activity, but they may erupt in the future.”

Non-plagiarized paraphrase:

Mount Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, is actually a dormant volcano. Dormant means that it is not active. The last time Mount Fuji erupted was in 1707, and there is always the possibility of a future eruption.

Direct quote from research:

“Three weeks after Katrina, warnings of the arrival of Hurricane Rita sent residents of cities such as Houston, Texas, rushing to evacuate, fearing for their lives. Fortunately, Hurricane Rita turned out to be much less severe than Katrina. However, mass evacuations like this bring hazards of their own, as panicking drivers may cause accidents on the jammed roads.”

Non-plagiarized paraphrase:

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of Houston, Texas, a warning for a new hurricane named Rita was broadcast, which caused many people to panic and flee the city. However, the mass departure of people leaving Houston at the same time could have caused many car accidents, even though the hurricane turned out to be not as dangerous as Katrina.

“How do I QUOTE an author?”

- If you quote an author, insert “quotation marks” around the text you are using.
- At the end of the quotation, *parenthetical notations* are needed
- Simply write the quote and then put the author’s name and page number:
- **(Williamson, 148)**
- You will cite the entire source when you get to the bibliography page of your paper.



Bibliography or Works Cited Page

1. At the end of your paper you will include a bibliography or works cited page.
2. This gives the authors of your sources credit for their work.
3. In your packet you will find sample bibliography entries for various sources.
4. If you have any questions you can refer to:
<http://www.aresearchguide.com/12biblio.html> or the information in the packet.
5. Sources should be in alphabetical order and double spaced.
6. You can also use the following website to input your source information for your bibliography or works cited page:
www.noodletools.com/quickcite/

Works Cited

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<<http://www.energizer.com/learning/default.asp>>.

"Learning Centre." *Duracell*. The Gillette Company. 31 July 2006
<<http://www.duracell.com/au/main/pages/learning-centre-what-is-a-battery.asp>>.

Proofread, Proofread, & Proofread!!!

- 1. Are all words spelled correctly? (Use a paper or online dictionary if unsure!)**
- 2. Did I capitalize the beginning of each sentence and all proper nouns?**
- 3. Did I punctuate correctly?**
- 4. Do I use grammar correctly?**
- 5. Did I answer all of the topic questions, and fulfill all of the requirements on my rubric.**
- 6. Did I include an introduction and conclusion?**
- 7. Did I type the paper using the correct font type, size, line spacing and margin requirements?**
- 8. Did I paraphrase all content?**
- 9. Did I use parenthetical notations for quotes?**
- 10. Do my sentences make sense when read aloud?**
- 11. Have I had my paper peer edited?**
- 12. Does my paper flow well?**
- 13. Did I include a bibliography page?**

Keep Moving to make yourself more professional by doing research

