

Cihan University Sulaimaniya
Course: Research Writing

Research Writing

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Definition

- ❑ A research paper is a formal academic document where students independently investigate a topic, analyze gathered information, and present their findings in a structured format.
- ❑ It combines research results with the student's own ideas, organized in a clear and logical manner.
- ❑ The paper summarizes answers to research questions derived from sources and presents the work in a standardized academic format.
- ❑

Step 1. Choose a Topic

- Choose a topic which interests and challenges you.
- Your attitude towards the topic may well determine the amount of effort and enthusiasm you put into your research.
- Obtain teacher approval for your topic before embarking on full-scale research.
- Select a subject you can manage. Avoid subjects that are too technical, learned, or specialized.
- Avoid topics that have only a very narrow range of source materials.

Step 2. Find Information

Surf the net

- Pay attention to domain name extensions (.edu, .gov, .org) as these tend to be more reliable. Be selective of .com sites. Learn how to evaluate sites critically and to search effectively on the Internet.

Check out print materials at the library

- Almanacs, atlases, encyclopedias, guides, reports, government publications

Read and evaluate, bookmark, print out, photocopy and take notes of relevant information.

Step 3. State Your Thesis

- Do some critical thinking and write your thesis statement down in one sentence.
- Your thesis statement is like a declaration of your belief.
- The main portion of your essay will consist of arguments to support and defend this belief.

Step 4. Make a Tentative Outline

- The purpose of an outline is to help you think through your topic carefully and organize it logically before you start writing. Include an **Introduction**, a **Body**, and a **Conclusion**. Make the first outline tentative.
 - **Introduction** Share your thesis and purpose clearly. What is the chief reason for the paper? Explain briefly the major points and why readers should be interested in your topic.
 - **Body** Present your arguments to support your thesis statement. Remember the **rule of 3** – find three supporting arguments for each position.
 - **Conclusion** Restate your thesis, summarize your arguments, and explain why you have come to this particular conclusion.

Step 5. Organize Your Notes

Organize, analyze, synthesize, sort and digest the information gathered to effectively communicate your thoughts, ideas, insights and research finding to others. This is the most important stage in writing a research paper.

Include only relevant and understandable information. Make sure you have used your own words and has been carefully noted. Document all ideas borrowed or quotes used to avoid plagiarism. Jot down detailed bibliographical information and it ready for your Works Cited page.

Thank You!