

Research: The How & What

Presented by the Writing and Design Lab

The Goal of Research

Ask Yourself “WHY”

Topic:

- Why is this topic important?
- What do you currently know about the topic?
- What do you *want* to know?
- What do you want your reader take away or learn from you?

Goal:

- What kind of research is fitting for this topic? Ex. Interviews, literature reviews, etc.
- What kind of research is most compelling for your topic?

Determining the Right Kind of Research

Example Topics:

History/Religion/Mythology = Historical texts/records/textbooks/museum archives/books/scripture

Business/Politics = Charts/headlines/laws/policies/speeches/surveys/news articles

Literature/Philosophy/Arts = Academic articles/Literature reviews/book quotes/author's notes/interviews

Sciences/Health = Studies/surveys/interviews/textbooks/statistics/academic articles

Types of Relevance

Relevancy of Time

History/Religion/Mythology = Modern AND old research is okay! Just make sure new information hasn't *replaced* it, such as new findings of "Atlantis"

Business/Politics = Current news ONLY! Unless discussing a historical event like the election of JFK.

Literature/Philosophy/Arts = Same as history: modern and old are both accepted, so long as nothing has been replaced.

Sciences/Health = Current news ONLY! Unless discussing a historical scientific or giving historical context.

TIP: Look at the article citation or the publication date inside books/at the bottom of articles/websites

Relevancy of Place

When gathering sources, keep a look out for where they were written or conducted. If they are not geographically related to your topic, ask yourself “how much is this really contributing to my topic?”

Ex. If discussing the rise of diabetes in Americans, don't use studies on diabetes from other countries.

Tip for finding the location: Read the methods section for studies/surveys, or the search for the location of the publishers/authors/archive

Relevancy of Place Pt. 2

REMEMBER WHO YOUR AUDIENCE IS!

Ask yourself this *before* you even begin your research. This will help you establish the angle that you want to research from.

Because even research papers are argumentative. Ask yourself “who is reading this, how can they relate to my sources, and what do I want them to take away?”

Relevancy breeds
CONVICTION & CONCISION

Plagiarism

Quoting

Extracting direct “quotes” which are then followed by a (citation).

“The WDL is the most helpful resource on campus when writing a research paper” (The Writing & Design Lab).

Paraphrasing

Summarizes a quote or passage by rearranging the sentence and replacing the existing words with synonymous language.

Paraphrases still require citations, since you are “borrowing” an idea.

Ex. The WDL is an invaluable resource on campus for writing research papers (The Writing & Design Lab).

Analyzing

Analysis is when you *dissect* a paragraph or quote and rationalize it in order to support your claim or topic. Analyzations do NOT require citations because they are YOUR thoughts and no one else's.

Analysis BRIDGES quotes and paraphrases together, acting as the *glue* for the argument.

Ex. Writing centers such as The Writing & Design Lab prove the importance of having on-campus tutors for students who may need help with trickier topics like research papers, making them an asset to the overall academic success of the university.

“The WDL is the most helpful resource on campus when writing a research paper” (The Writing & Design Lab). Writing centers such as The Writing & Design Lab prove the importance of having on-campus tutors for students who may need help with trickier topics like research papers, making them an asset to the overall academic success of the university.

When in doubt, cite it!

Practice!

“The Writing and Design Lab (WDL) is a multiliteracy center housed in the Rutgers-Camden Digital Commons at 101 Cooper Street. The WDL supports students working in a variety of genres and media from traditional academic papers to multimodal compositions. A 21st century writing center, the WDL recognizes the role of technology at every stage of the composing process and the importance of design in the effective communication of ideas.”

- The Writing and Design Lab website

Quoting: Extracting word for word with quotation marks AND a citation. "Example" (Website).

Paraphrasing: Summarizing or synonymizing a paragraph or sentence. Requires citation.

Analyzing: Bridges quotes and paraphrases together WITH YOUR OWN THOUGHTS. Ask yourself, what is your opinion of this quote or how does it RELATE to your topic.

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