

MLA Research Packet



Name: _____

Class: _____

Topic: _____

Introduction

In your hands is a comprehensive packet detailing the research process. You will utilize this packet as we go through the research unit, and this will become part of your overall grade. In addition to the completion of this packet, you will also produce a three to five page typed research essay. The essay requirements will outlined more specifically further on in this packet.

Contents

The contents of this packet are closely aligned to the research process, ensuring that no step is skipped.

Part 1: Picking a Topic / Brainstorming

- Prompt
- Essay Requirements
- Suggestions
- Possible Topics
- KWL Chart
- Introduction to Thesis

Part II: Research / Gathering Sources

- Introduction to Research
- MLA Crash Course
- Source Cards

Part III: Processing Information

- Forming Your Final Thesis
- Narrowing Sources

Part IV: Writing Your Essay

- Prompt
- Essay Requirements
- Suggestions
- In-Text Citations
- Works Cited Page

Part I: Picking a Topic / Brainstorming

Prompt

Write an effective research paper in which you evaluate the usefulness of a current profession in today's society.

Essay Requirements

3-5 Pages Typed
Double Spaced
Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font
One-inch Margins
MLA Format

Suggestions

- Create a strong thesis early on.
- Utilize the library and internet for research purposes.
- Be organized! Organized research equates to thorough research.

Possible Topics

Listed below are possible topics for your paper. If you wish to use a profession not listed here, see me for approval. Each student must choose a different profession.

Accountant	Massage Therapist	Telemarketer
Actor/Actress	Mathematician	Translator
Acupuncturist	Mechanic	Truck Driver
Anesthesiologist	Military	Typist
Archeologist	Musician	Undertaker
Architect	Nurse	Underwriter
Astronaut	Nurse Practitioner	Urologist
Athlete	Occupational	Valet
Athletic Trainer	Therapist	Veterinarian
Auditor	Oil Technician	Video Game
Cardiologist	Oncologist	Developer
Carpenter	Ophthalmologist	Waiter
Cartoonist	Optometrist	Weatherman
Chef	Ornithologist	(Meteorologist)
Chemist	Orthodontist	Web Designer
Chiropractor	Pharmacy	Welder
Construction	Physical Therapist	Writer
Worker	Physician	X-ray Technician
Cosmetologist	Physicist	Zookeeper
Counselor	Plumber	Zoologist
Dietitian	Podiatrist	
Dental Hygienist	Police man	
Dentist	Psychiatrist	
Electrician	Psychologist	
Engineer	Radiologist	
Fashion Designer	Real Estate Agent	
Financial Analyst	Receptionist	
Firefighter	Reporter	
Forester	Salesperson	
Funeral Practitioner	Sanitation Worker	
Geologist	Scientist	
Historian	Secretary	
Housewife	Social Worker	
Illustrator	Sociologist	
Interior Designer	Software engineer	
Interpreter	Speech Pathologist	
Janitor	Teacher	
Journalist	Elementary	
Judge	Middle	
Marine Biologist	Secondary	
Mason	College	

K-W-L Chart

My Profession: _____

*Note: Once you choose a profession to research, please make note of it on the provided line at the front of this packet.

You will use this page to help brainstorm what you need to accomplish during the research stage of the project. Fill out the 'K' and the 'W' columns to the best of your ability. In the library and computer labs you will focus on answering the questions in the 'W' column.

K
What I KNOW About My
Profession

W
What I WANT to Know
About My Profession

L
What I LEARNED About
My Profession

Working Thesis

Your essay, like any research paper, will be built upon a **thesis statement**. This statement, which will be in your introduction, will highlight the main points of your essay. Typically, research papers focus on at least three main points.

Example Thesis: Even though it is often regarded scornfully, ballet still holds its place in society by providing entertainment, culture and history to its citizens.

What are the three main points my paper will focus on?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

All research will revolve around these three points. In the space below, write a sample thesis to jump start your research. You can always change your thesis later on, as you gather more information.

Thesis Sentence:

Three Main Points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*Remember: A strong thesis must be arguable, specific and avoid lists.

Part II: Research / Gathering Sources

Introduction to Research

Research is often viewed as tedious and a little bit scary, but it doesn't have to be. As you go about gathering sources, here are a few key points to keep in mind:

- 1) Anything you use, I must receive a copy of it. This means:
 - a. Print out web pages
 - b. Copy book pages
 - c. Highlight the quotes you used.
- 2) Any book/web page/etc. **MUST** be accompanied with a source card.
- 3) Anything that you say in your paper that you didn't wake up knowing **MUST BE CITED.**

MLA Crash Course

MLA stands for Modern Language Association. It is a certain way of recording your sources and formatting your paper that ensures you don't plagiarize.

Steps

1. When you find information, make a hard copy.
2. Highlight all quotes used.
3. Copy the quote onto a source card.
4. Copy the citation information onto a source card (including page numbers)

Source Cards

Source Cards are where you record all of the information that you want to save for when you write your paper. Remember, organization is the key to an efficient research paper. Each source card should include the following information:

- Citation
- Quote
- Location of quote
- Topic

Part III: Processing Information

Narrowing Sources

You may not need all of the quotes you copied down. Use the following steps to narrow down your sources.

1. Go back, look over your quotes.
2. Put a (1) next to those that apply to point 1.
3. Put a (2) next to those that apply to point 2.
4. Put a (3) next to those that apply to point 3.
5. All remaining quotes put an 'X' by.

Forming Your Final Thesis

1. Take your original thesis.

a. Original Thesis:

2. Look at your Source Cards. You may find that your original topics no longer fit the cards that are remaining. If this is true, you need to rework your thesis. Using the source cards as a guide, write the new thesis below.

3. Make any necessary changes to your thesis.

a. New Thesis:

b. Three main points:

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

Part IV: Writing Your Essay

Prompt

Write an effective research paper in which you evaluate the usefulness of a current profession in today's society.

Essay Requirements

3-5 Pages Typed
Double Spaced
Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font
One-inch Margins
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Suggestions

- You will be researching the **usefulness** of a profession.
- Your **thesis** requires that you come up with at least **three main points** to prove that the profession is useful.
- Research will support your three main points.

In-Text Citations

1. Direct Quote

- ALWAYS list the author, title and page number.
- Quotes go inside quotation marks.
- The page number is in parenthesis.
- The period goes at the very end of it all.

Example: Christine Haughney reports in Driving Today that shortly after Japan made it illegal to use a handheld phone while driving, "accidents caused by using the phones dropped by 75 percent" (A8).

2. Paraphrase

- STILL list the author and page number.
- No quotation marks.

Example: Most states do not keep adequate records on the number of times cell phones are a factor in accidents; as of December 2000, only ten states were trying to keep such records (Sundeen 2).

Works Cited Page

Your Works Cited Page will take all of the MLA citation information on your Source Cards and list them in alphabetical order.

