

RESEARCH CREDIBILITY

Research Paper

Possible Sources

- Biography books in library
- Wilson biographies
- E-books
- Newspaper/Magazine Articles
- Encyclopedia
- Websites (Focus on .edu or .org sites when possible)
 - No Wikipedia! No exceptions.

Finding Credible Information

- ❑ One problem of authorship on the Internet is that anyone with the skills and equipment can publish a website.
- ❑ Although a resource may have good information, it may be published by someone without qualifications, experience and education.
- ❑ Some websites have a specific agenda and may not give a balanced treatment of the issue to more easily persuade readers.
- ❑ Domain suffixes can also provide clues to credibility; while there are notable exceptions, educational research (.edu), government studies (.gov) and not-for-profit organizations (.org) tend to provide useful, fair information.

Evaluating Sources

- ❑ The information is relevant to the topic you are researching.
- ❑ The information is up-to-date.
- ❑ The information is from an author who is qualified to write about this topic.
- ❑ The information is from a trusted source that is updated and reviewed regularly.
- ❑ The author's or institution's purpose for writing is clear.
- ❑ The information is written at the right level for your needs.
- ❑ The information has the level of detail you need—neither too general or too specific.
- ❑ The facts can be verified in more than one source.

Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing

- Quoting
 - ▣ Identical to the original – word for word!
 - ▣ MUST be attributed to the original author
- Paraphrasing
 - ▣ Putting a passage into your own words
 - ▣ Usually shorter than the original passage
 - ▣ MUST be attributed to the original source
- Summarizing
 - ▣ Putting only the main points into your own words
 - ▣ Significantly shorter and take a broad overview of the source
 - ▣ MUST be attributed to the original source

Research Note Cards

- Keep track of your research on note cards
 - ▣ Front – Citation information
 - ▣ Back – One note that you take from the source
 - You should have multiple cards for each source
 - ▣ Use highlighters/markers to mark related information
- Example Note Card:

Author:
Title:
Publication/Website:
Volume/Issue:
Pages (if listed):
Publisher and City:
Date Published:
Date Accessed:

<u>NAME & BLOCK</u>
Topic/Idea Related to:
Note/Quote/Statistic/Information (this is the one thing from this source for this one note card)

Organizing your Research



- ❑ Arrange your note cards into their most logical order
- ❑ Use them to construct your writing plan/complete your graphic organizer
- ❑ Make sure that you have enough researched information to back up your claims
- ❑ Number your note cards or color-code them to line up with your graphic organizer

Avoiding Plagiarism

- ALL information from your sources must be cited.
- Use parenthetical citations to do this
 - ▣ Put the author's last name inside of the parentheses with the page number (if any)
 - ▣ Don't forget the period after!
- Format:
 - ▣ Introduce – Quote – Explain (How and why, not just what)
- Example:

How serious is the problem? Since 1930, the aquifer's water has been reduced by 11 percent (Lewis). The volume of water has decreased because the use of irrigation has increased so much since WWII.

Works Cited Page



- When you have finished your paper, you must attach a Works Cited page.
- This page lists your sources from your note cards alphabetically.
- Be sure to use your resources and the in program citation help on Microsoft Word for the final draft.
 - ▣ Use your Reference Handout for assistance

Thank you to Purdue OWL

Writing a Research Paper

Contributors: Jack Raymond Baker, Allen Brizee