

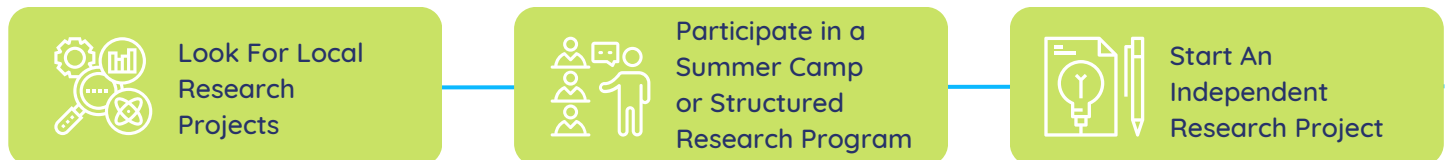
THE ART OF RESEARCH WRITING

SUMMARY NOTES

This is a recap of what was covered during the Webinar on 5th April 2023.

WHERE TO START RESEARCH AND IMPORTANT COMPONENTS

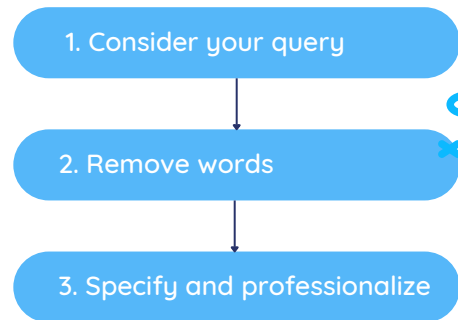
HOW TO PURSUE RESEARCH



HOW TO GET STARTED

- PubMed: Find research publications on many topics
- PubMed Central: Free research articles
- Google Scholar: All scientific primary literature
- Additional Open Access Journals:
 - CDC—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Public Library of Science: free peer-reviewed articles

RESEARCH STRATEGY



HOW TO GOOGLE MORE EFFICIENTLY

GOOGLE FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- Google Search Structure
- Google Community Forums
- Search Help
- Refine Searches with Limiters

BASIC SEARCH FACTS

TIPS FOR BETTER SEARCHES

- Keep it simple
- Think how the page you are looking for will be written
- Describe what you need with as few terms as possible
- Choose descriptive words



THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PURPOSES

- Evaluate / critique consulted sources
- Demonstrate the quality of research and an understanding of cited sources
- Provide a list of consulted resources and different formats
- Serve as a reference for your own research
- Review the available the literature on the subject
- Act as a starting point to develop a thesis, research inquiry, or further research



WHAT ABOUT STATS?

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- What is the Pew Research Center?
- "The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project"

DATABASES

- Statista
- Statistical Abstract of the United States by Bernian Press Staff
- State and Metropolitan Area Data Book by the U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts
- Data Haven United States Statistics Online
- United States Census Bureau
- United States Census Data
- Your source for population, housing, economic, and geographic information
- Data and Statistics-USA.gov
- Links to statistics and data from all aspects of the US government.
- Data.gov
- Measure of America
- American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey is a project of the Census Bureau and the premier source for information about America's changing population, housing and workforce. **This project surveys more than 250,000 residents of the U.S. each month.**

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

- CIA World Factbook
- Population Reference Bureau Data Finder
- U.S. Census Bureau - International Programs
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics

REFERENCES

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Moon, K. (2022). A Blueprint For High School Students To Pursue Research And Get Published. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristenmoon/2022/03/13/a-blueprint-for-high-school-students-to-pursue-research-and-get-published/?sh=268d2d956c9e>

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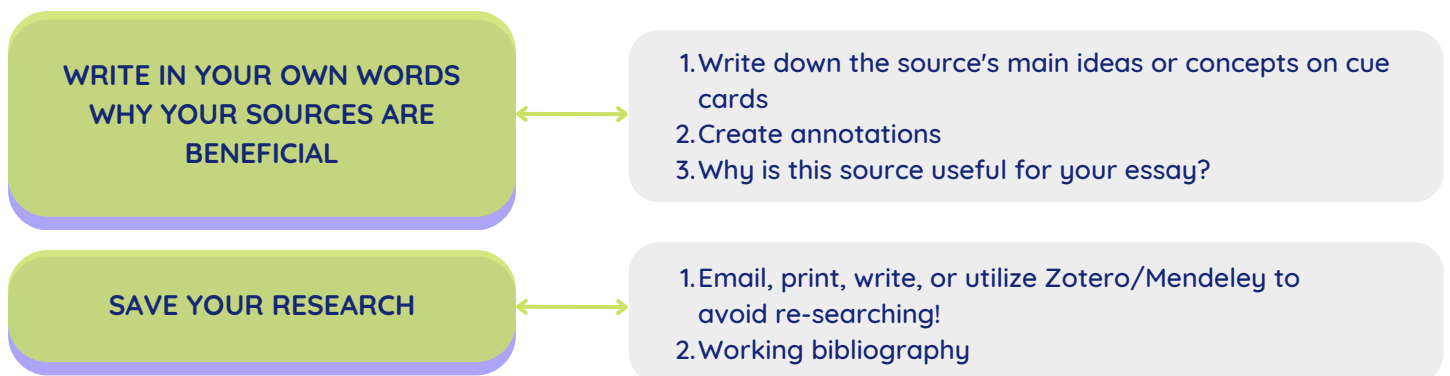
ORGANIZING YOUR RESEARCH STRATEGY



DISCOVERING GOOD STUFF...

- Sort by "subheading" or chunk.
- Write a working outline
- What are your essay's subheadings?
- Librarians color-code
- Create subheading folders or Word files on your PC

ORGANIZE YOUR CHUNKS



WRITE WHEN READY

1. Randomize.
2. Write down your thoughts.
 - Full-sentence paragraphs
 - Ideas



RELIABLE VS. UNRELIABLE INFORMATION QUESTIONS

1. What does reliable mean?
2. Can you tell the difference between both?
3. What makes a source more reliable?
 - Citations
 - Publishing journals
 - Peer-reviewed papers
 - Government reports
 - Educational Institutions

TIPS!

WEBSITES ENDING WITH:

- .edu = educational institution
- .gov = government websites (useful for statistics and objective reports)
- .org = usually a non-profit organization (e.g., UN)

Also, check for dates. Some studies may be reliable, but **outdated!**

QUESTIONS

1. What are some unreliable sources of information?
2. How about Wikipedia?
3. Blogs?
4. Self-published resources



Reliability relates to your **ETHOS** compartment in the research paper. It makes it more credible! Think about basing your economic paper conclusion on something Douglas Diamond (Noble Prize winner)!

YOU BETTER GIVE EM' CREDIT



PLAGIARISM: WHAT IS IT?

- Duplications
- Copies
- Rephrase
- Combining
- Submitted work
- Independent work

TO CITE OR NOT TO CITE?

- APA Citations
- Purdue OWL: APA
- Sample Research Paper - APA Style
- MLA Citation Style
- Purdue OWL: MLA Works Cited

Great examples!

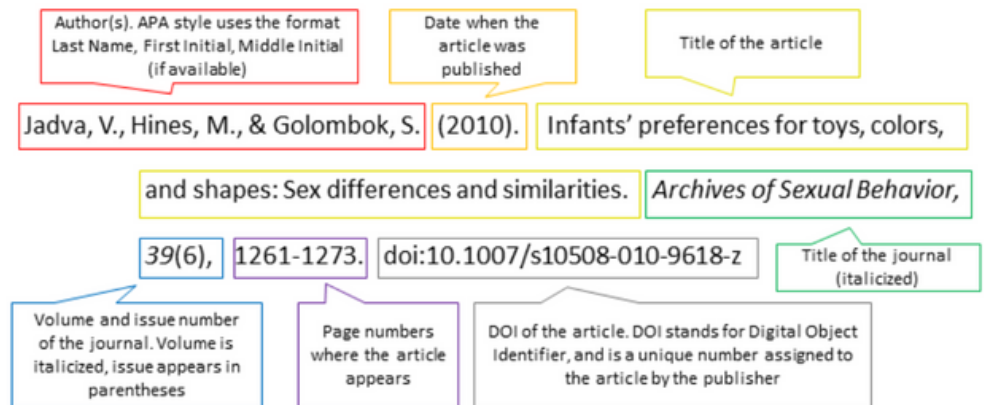
- Sample Research Paper - MLA Style (PDF)
- Chicago/Turabian Style of Citation
- Sample Paper - Chicago
- Vancouver Citation Style

PARTS OF A CITATION

MLA Sample



APA Sample



AND WHAT EXACTLY IS A CITATION?



Being academically honest



Credible work



Tracking

TOOLS FOR CITING



NoodleTools
Express



Mendeley



EasyBib



Zotero



ZoteroBib

SYNTHESIZING INFORMATION

Now you've read your reliable resources, you have got some good information.

Question: What's the difference between **summary** and **synthesis**?



The key to writing well is reading well.

1. Understand

2. Identify the points of contact between the various sources
 - How do they agree, disagree, reinforce, subvert, explain, and contradict one another in the context of your thesis

3. Create a new thesis (syn-thesis).

TIPS

AVOID!



1. The body of your paper to be majorly constructed of other summaries
2. Heavily including non contextualized quotes, facts, and information. It's not convincing, it's confusing. Interpret the data so that the reader understands the connection between sources.
3. "Hanging quotations" in the beginning.



TRY OUT!



1. Start with a **VERY** well-formulated thesis statement, so as not to lose readers while presenting information from different sources.
2. End each paragraph with a link to the following one, and start each paragraph with a topic sentence
3. Tell your reader something about the quoted author

EXAMPLE OF SYNTHESIS (WARWICK, 2009)

In the past, opponents of immigration raised economic, racial, religious, and nationalistic objections or questions about large-scale immigration to the United States (Jones 247-305). Today, however, experts tell us that opposition to immigration is expressed almost exclusively in economic terms. For example, Dan Lacy, a workplace consultant, business journalist, and editor, found that "research of immigration attitudes" shows that the fear that some Americans have of losing their jobs to immigrants is the main reason for opposition to immigration today (41). In the same economic vein, Thomas Muller, an economist with the Urban Institute, points out the wide spread concern among Americans that the new immigrants use welfare and other public-aid programs to such an extent that they are a "financial burden" on government and, therefore, a financial burden on taxpayers (125-127). With these two reasons expressly conveyed, it is easy to see that most objections to immigration now fall under the economic realm.

SUMMARISING FEATURES OF A GOOD SYNTHESIS:

- Accurately reports information from the sources using a full arsenal of varying phrases and sentences.
- Organized in such a way that readers (audience) can immediately see where the information from the sources overlaps.
- Makes sense of the sources and helps the reader (audience) understand them in greater depth.

