

COMP

3



23

Writing a Research Paper

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Avoid plagiarism
- 2 Avoid other source abuses
- 3 Use sources well
- 4 Write a research paper
- 5 Follow a model

Avoid Plagiarism

- Plagiarism
 - *Using someone else's words, ideas, or images so that they appear to be your own*
 - **Documentation:** *Crediting sources of information through in-text citations or references and a list of works cited*
- What makes it wrong?
 - *Discounts the work of other thinkers*
 - *Disrespects writers and readers*
 - *Insults instructors and damages one's reputation*

Avoid Plagiarism

- **Academic transcript:** Permanent record of educational achievement and activity
- What does plagiarism look like?
 - *Submitting another writer's paper*
 - *Pasting material into your paper and passing it off as your own*
 - *Using material without quotation marks and citation*
 - *Failing to cite a source for summarized or paraphrased ideas*

Avoid Plagiarism

- How do I avoid it?
 - *Pledge never to plagiarize and be committed*
 - *Follow rules created by college and professors*
 - *Take orderly notes and maintain an accurate working bibliography*
 - **Working bibliography:** List of sources that you have used and/or intend to use in your research
 - *Credit all material that is quoted, summarized, or paraphrased from another source*
 - *On finishing the work compile an accurate works-cited or reference list and include it*

Source Abuses to Avoid

- Using sources inaccurately
- Using source material out of context
 - **Context:** *Set of circumstances in which a statement is made*
- Overusing source material
- Plunking quotations
- Using blanket citations
- Relying heavily on one source
- Citations not linked to bibliographic entries

Source Abuses to Avoid

- Violating copyrights
 - *Copying, distributing, and/or posting whole or in part any intellectual property without permission from or the copyright holder*
 - *Avoided by:*
 - Observing fair use guidelines
 - Understanding what's in the public domain
 - Observing copyright laws
 - Avoiding changing a source without permission

Use Sources Well

- After taking notes from good sources one can create credibility by showing:
 - *What information is borrowed*
 - *Where it is obtained from*
- Source material should be integrated smoothly into one's writing
 - *Manage the sources well*
 - *Use quotations only for key statements, well-phrased claims, conclusions, or passages that require keen analysis*



Use Sources Well

- Document sources - Careful documentation is essential as readers should recognize between own and borrowed writing
 - *Identifying the start*
 - First reference - Author's name and credentials, title of the source, and other helpful background
 - Subsequent references - Use an attributive phrase
 - Other references - Quoting facts with parenthetical citation



Use Sources Well

- *Identifying the end*
 - Quotations and Ideas
 - Longer quotations - Separated from main text
 - Changing quotations - Using an ellipsis within square brackets
 - Using square brackets to indicate a clarification

Write a Research Paper

- Review your research materials
- Revisit your research questions and deepen your thesis
 - *Use richer and clearer terms*
 - *Introduce qualifying terms where needed*
 - *Stress your idea through opposition*
- Organize your work effectively
 - *Argumentation, cause-effect, chronological order, classification, comparison-contrast, description, explanation, problem-solution*

Write a Research Paper

- Develop your first draft
 - *Avoid strings of references without your discussion*
 - *Don't offer entire paragraphs from a source*
 - *Be careful not to overload your draft*
 - *Resist the urge to copy-and-paste big chunks*
- Revise your first draft
- Edit your paper
- Design your paper

Follow a Model

- Argumentative research paper “Why the world deserves better than Fair Trade” by Paige Louter
 - *Paper examines Fair Trade movement, assessing whether it achieves its goal of global justice*
 - *Illustrates all the concepts covered in previous chapters*
 - *Writer distinguishes her own thinking from source material very clearly*
 - *MLA documentation style*

SUMMARY

- One can do all the research that needs to be done, but if the work is not documented it will have no impact
- Documentation is necessary for others to read and respond to the work carried out
- Writing a research paper is the culmination of the discovery process
 - *Opportunity to share knowledge and change minds*

