

English 287 Research Report 1

A research report is a useful tool in several ways. First, it records the information you're gathering, completely and accurately. Second, since it contains your interpretations of what you read, it makes it easier to separate your own ideas from the other author's. Third, it helps you incorporate research material into your paper, since you've already done some thinking and writing about how this other author's perspective fits into your own paper's purpose.

The first iteration of this report is due on Thursday, February 22nd. On that date, you must bring three copies, *already printed out*, for peer response.

Your research report must be typed, and must include the information described below.

Section 1: Research Question, Working Thesis and Audience

1. State the research question with which you began.
2. State your working thesis in its current form. Remember that you will continually revise and refine your working thesis as you write the drafts of your research essay.
3. Explain the audience whom you would like to reach with this essay (i.e., the audience for whom you are writing). Remember—it's not "society" ☺. Who are the participants who are currently *invested in* this argument? Alternatively, who *needs to know* more about this argument?

Section 2: Annotated Working Bibliography

1. List each source you have researched (**whether or not** it will appear in your final write-up), using MLA guidelines as you would on a "Works Cited" page. Include the date that you first accessed the source.
2. After each source you list, add a brief discussion of the source as follows:
 - a. Summarize the source's argument. Also note whether or not it's a scholarly source. Finally, discuss its approach, use of evidence, and how you have evaluated its reliability.
 - b. Explain how this source will help deepen and inform your own argument (i.e., your working thesis).
 - c. Explain how this source's argument is similar to and different from your own.

Helpful hint: Often, your textual sources will list other very useful sources in their own "Works Cited" or "References" sections. This is one of the ways you can locate the "conversation" that exists around your research question.

(over)

Section 3: What's Most Interesting? and Questions

1. Indicate what you're finding that is most interesting to you, and why.
2. Note down any problems you're having, and/or questions you'd like to discuss with one or more of the following persons:
 - Me
 - Another professor who is expert in the area of your research question
 - A peer also engaged in research
 - A reference librarian (through the library's "Ask a Librarian" feature or in person)

Note: Contact me immediately by email if you have any questions. It's important not to get stuck while doing research ... keep moving!