CLRC Writing Skills Workshop: Essentials of Research

Presenters:

Beth Taylor-Schott, Writing Center Coordinator
Sally Chuah, Reference and Instruction Librarian
Student Learning Outcomes

After attending this workshop, students should be able to do the following:

- Develop a writing plan to guide the research and writing process.
- Find research sources online and through the library.
- Evaluate the legitimacy of sources.
What is being asked of you?

As a research paper writer you will

- Make a plan to guide your work
- Gather reliable information from a variety of sources
- Sort through the information to identify the most relevant and applicable facts
- Organize those facts in a way that makes understanding the topic easier
- Present the information to the reader in a clear, organized, and comprehensible way

Essentially, research papers are about effectively managing information.
The Steps for Writing a Research Paper

1. Use questions to focus and narrow your research topic.
   - Are you presenting information? Or making your own argument?
   - Are there any other questions your paper should answer?
   - Which questions are you not responsible for answering?

- It will help you focus your research to begin with a temporary thesis based on your current understanding of the topic. You will have a direction to head in, but you do not have to stay committed to it if you find that it does not work.

- If you have some potential topics, it will help you to sort your notes as you gather them. At the same time, you will be able to test the usefulness of your categories.
The Steps for Writing a Research Paper

3. Find sources and take detailed notes as you read.

- How effectively you take notes will determine the efficiency of your writing process:
  Avoid: “I know I read that somewhere…”
  Instead: Take detailed notes as you read—noting both the key information and bibliographic information about the source.
Cathcart, Rebecca. "California Students Return to Bigger Classes at Higher Tuition," New York Times. 9/12/10

+ UC, CSU and CC systems face "bigger class sizes, fewer campus services, and less accessible faculty members, all at sharply rising prices."
+ CSU tuition rose 20% from last year
  - UC 9% and CC 30%
+ By next fall UC will cost more than $10,000
+ By 2011, CSU will cut enrollment by 40,000 students
FINDING AND USING SOURCES

Library website
- Catalog of books
- Databases
- Internet sources
- Humans!
Finding and using sources

http://library.sbcc.edu
Finding and using sources

Catalog
Finding and using sources

Databases
Finding and using sources

Internet Sources...of quality

Recommended Internet Resources include Academic materials and Subject Directories that have been recommended by SBCC Library Faculty and are freely available without an account. In some cases, the resource may contain scholarly material, marked with an asterisk, and are appropriate for student research, but students should use the material with a critical eye. The list is alphabetical, not in recommended order. Please see a librarian for specific assistance.

- Academic Info
- Best Information on the Internet
- California Population Data (primary materials)
- Calisphere (primary materials)
- Cambridge University Press Journals Online *
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) *
- FirstGov (primary materials)
- GPO Access
- Highwire Press Journals *
- InfoMine
- InfoPlease
- Intute
- ipl2: Information you can Trust
- Library of Congress (primary materials)
- Medicaid.gov (needs a specific user id and password)
Finding and using sources

Activity

Assessing search tools and results

GROUP 1
- Go to google.com

GROUP 2
- Go to ipl2.org

Search for: “melanoma prevention”

- How many results?
- How many in first ten results are .com sites?
- How many advertisements?
- How can you limit/refine search?
How to Contact Us

Live Chat. Use the box on the left of this screen to talk with a librarian. This is generally available during our regular library hours. You can add us to your buddy list if you use Gmail, Yahoo!, or Meebo – our username is lurialibrary.

Email. Use the comment form. Be sure to click Post it Privately after entering question or comment.

Call 805-730-4444 for Reference. Call 805-730-4430 for all other needs.

Send text message to 805-699-5874 (typically available during our open hours)

Live consultation with Desktop Sharing and Telephone. Please chat, email, text or call for an appointment.

In Person. Please chat, email, text or call for an appointment.
When you’ve done your research...

4. Integrate research into your outline.
5. Draft and then revise.
6. Create a works cited page.
7. Proofread the final draft.
Help is out there...

The Library can help you with:

- Finding sources
- Evaluating credibility of sources
- MLA and APA citation format

Luria Library Hours: M-Th 7:30-10pm, F 7:30-4:30, Sat 12-5, Sun 10-10

The Writing Center can help you with:

- Assignment analysis
- Thesis development and outlining
- Organizing research information
- Integrating quotations into paper
- MLA and APA citation format

Writing Center Hours: M-Th 9-7, Fri 9-3
Upcoming CLRC Workshops

- **Writing Skills Workshops:**
  - Introduction to Citation: Thursday, Nov 1\textsuperscript{st} 
  - MLA Citation— Tuesday, Nov 13\textsuperscript{th} 
  - APA Citation—Thursday, Nov 15\textsuperscript{th} 

- **Learning Skills Workshops:**
  - Learning Styles—Thursday, Nov 8\textsuperscript{th} 
  - Memory Techniques—Thursday, Nov 29\textsuperscript{th} 
  - Stress Management—Thursday, Dec 6\textsuperscript{th}
Thank you

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