Background Research Report

**Purpose**: To learn how to research, cite sources, write a research report and learn important background for the upcoming novel study.

1. Select one of the following topics:
* The 1930s Politics (America)
* Farming in the 1930s (implements, crops, conditions)
* Migrant Workers in the 1930s
* Mentally Challenged in the early 20th century (how they were viewed and treated) **(“Retarded” for American research as they still use this archaic term)**
* Mentally Ill and Asylums in the early 20th century (how the insane were viewed and treated)
* Women in the 1930s (how they were viewed and treated; suffrage movement)
* Geography of Salinas Valley, California; Gabilan Mountains (1930s if possible)
1. Before you begin your research, consider what questions you would like to answer about your chosen topic. List them here. They will become your **FINDINGS**.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

1. Begin your research exploring such search engines as [www.findingdulcinea.com](http://www.findingdulcinea.com) and [www.sweetsearch.com](http://www.sweetsearch.com) before using google. Avoid Wikipedia for obvious reasons…
2. Now that you have begun your research, determine what central question you wish to answer regarding the topic chosen.

**Topic Question:**

This is the question you would like to answer about your topic.

1. Record your points (research) *in your own words* and **be sure to cite the source** in brackets following your point. e.g. (Lawson, p. 42).

**Findings**

Most of your report will consist of the findings, or evidence, that you have discovered in researching your topic. Each finding section will focus on *one* idea that addresses the topic question.

Your first point should cover the basic information about the topic. This will include background information on the person you studied. Your other points will address different findings that work to *answer* your topic question.

When you write your paper, you will organize these findings into ***subheadings*** so that your reader knows exactly what you are talking about in each section.

Make sure these sections are detailed and specific. You might need to use another piece of paper to include all the research you find. You will likely need to examine more than four areas for this report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Finding One (Basic Information):****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Finding Two:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Sources:** | **Sources:** |
| **Finding Three:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Finding Four (Opposing Research):****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Sources:** | **Sources:** |

**Introduction**

In your introduction, you should:

* State the topic question
* Provide a bit of background
* Briefly state the subject matter you write about in your findings

Now you may begin typing and expanding on your points.

**Findings**

Examine your findings. Now write a paragraph **for each** of your findings (these were the questions you asked at the start).

**Conclusion**

What can you conclude (deduce) as a result of your findings? What have you learned about your topic? Based on your research, how can your question be answered?

**Recommendations**

This recommendation is your opportunity to discuss **your thoughts** on your topic question. What is **your opinion** of the subject?

**Summary**

While the summary is **the last thing you write**, it goes at the **beginning** of your research report. The summary is like the blurb on the back of a movie case; it should summary the report in broad strokes to help the reader determine what the report is about. In the summary, you want to tell your reader what conclusions about your topic you have come to as a result of studying this question. Consider

**how** the research you have done answers the topic question.

**Sources**

To avoid plagiarism, all sources you use (books, websites, etc.) need to be included in the report.

List them here using the MLA style (see attached sheet for proper examples of this style).

**Remember!**

* Use full sentences and complete paragraphs in your final report
* Your report must be 3-4 pages typed, double spaced, 12 font
* Include a title page and a “Works Cited” (sources) page (in addition to your 4 page report)
* Make sure to include headings and subheadings for your various sections
* Use 12-point, double-spaced font

To see exactly how your report should look, see the template on the next page.

**Summary** \*<- this is called a *heading*

*Type your summary here.*

**Introduction**

Title of Your Research Report

*\*(try to make it catchy but informative)*

Submitted to: Miss Gaulin

Submitted by: (your name)

Submitted for: (course code - ENG 4C) Submitted on: (the date)

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*Type your introduction here.*

**Discussion/Findings**

Subheading # 1 \*<- this is called a subheading. It explains exactly what !ndings you are going to cover in the following paragraph. Do not title it “subheading”— instead, title it according to the point you are about to write about in the paragraph.

*Type your findings for your first point here.*

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Subheading # 2

*Type your findings for your second point here.*

\*... continue on with your next two subheadings in the same way.

Works Cited

*\*here is where you list all of your sources. Make sure they are in proper MLA format.*

(example):

Russell, Tony et al. “MLA Works Cited:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conclusion** |  | " | Electronic Sources (Web |
|  |  | " | Publications). *Purdue Online* |
| *Type your conclusion here.* |  | *!* | *Writing Lab.* Owl, 14 Dec. 2012. |
|  |  | " | Web. 20 Oct. 2013. < https:// |
| **Recommendations** |  | " | owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ |
|  |  | " | resource/747/08/ > |
| *Type your recommendations here.* |  |  |  |

*\*note that aer the "rst line of the citation, the*

*lines are bumped over by one tab space.*

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**MLA Citation**

“Citation” is simply another word for recording and giving credit to the sources you use in your written work. There are many types of citation, but the MLA style is used in English.

This page will show you how to cite internet resources.

Whenever you include information that you got anywhere besides your own brain, you have to cite it.

After you write a sentence containing a fact from a website, insert the authorʼs name *or* article title *or* website name (whichever comes first in your Works Cited Entry) within parentheses.

**Example:**



The writer has used the authorʼs name (Stolley et. al.) to indicate where s/he got the information.

Works Cited

Your “Works Cited” page (also sometimes called a bibliography) goes at the end of your report. It includes the *alphabetical* list of sources you used in your paper.

**Example:**

**Follow this format when citing your sources, using quotes and italics where indicated:**



Author [last name, first name]. “Title of Article.” *Name of Site.* Name of organization (sponsor or publisher) that created the site, date of creation. Medium of publication (Web). Date of access. < url/link to website page

For more information, see:---

Russell, Tony et al. “MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications). *Purdue Online Writing*

*Lab.* Owl, 14 Dec. 2012. Web. 20 Oct. 2013. < https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/ >

**Research Report Checkbric**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Knowledge and Understanding Level \_\_\_\_**

* Knowledge of appropriate format and structure (all sections present)
* Headings and Subheadings
* Information properly cited throughout report
* Clear knowledge of subject studied
* Evidence you have completed adequate research and/or read the book)

**Thinking and Inquiry Level \_\_\_\_**

* Careful selection of important information
* Effective summarisation skills

**Communication Level \_\_\_\_**

* Conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization)
* Evidence of proofreading
* Sources cited
* Material is written in your own words
* Report is of the requisite length

**Application Level \_\_\_\_**

* Recommendations demonstrated thoughtful

 reflection

*Descriptive Feedback:*