Media Research Report

Purpose: To learn how to write a research report while learning about the impact of media on our culture.

Select one of the following topics (a maximum of four people may study any topic).

* The impact of electronic devices on sleep
* The destruction of language as a result of texting
* ADD culture as a result of use of electronic devices
* How social media affects public opinion
* The scary truth about instagram and sexting
* Bullying in the age of the internet
* How access to instant answers negatively impacts conversation and learning
* Why people like twitter and what it says about our culture
* The existence and importance of cell phone etiquette
* Should cell phones be allowed in schools?
* Does technology really aid in student learning

**Topic Question:**

After you choose your topic question, brainstorm several related questions you have about the topic. You will use these questions to help guide your research.

**Brainstorming Questions**

Now that you have some questions, you can begin researching your topic. Look for different viewpoints and record the research that backs up the points. Be sure to look for *strong, reliable* websites if you are using the internet for your research, as you want your points to be supported by *facts*, not opinions.

Record your research *in your own words* and be sure to include the source (where you found the information).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Preliminary Research | Sources |
|  |  |

After you have done your research, look at the information you have found. Group your research into different topics.

**Findings**

Most of your research 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 often includes statistics, facts, and/or history about your topic. 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.

It is a good idea to include a subheading that focuses on the opposing research (the facts and figures that support an alternate point of view). Once you have acknowledged this other point of view, explain why this perspective does not have as much support. By doing this, you let the reader know that the conclusions you make are well-informed and not just one-sided.

Make sure these sections are detailed and specific. You might need to use another piece of paper to include all the research you find. If you have a particularly complex question, you may need to use more than four findings.

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

**Introduction**

Now that you know what your report is about, itʼs easier to write an introduction for it. In your introduction, you should:

* State the topic question
* Provide a bit of background
* Address the major factors that might affect the decision-making process (briefly state the subject matter you write about in your findings)

Make some point form notes to use in your introduction.Now you may begin typing and expanding on your points.

**Conclusion**

The conclusion summarizes and concludes what you have presented through the body of your report. Based on your research, how can your question be answered?

Make some point form notes that wrap up your report. It is a good idea to briefly restate your findings and how they answer the question.

**Recommendations**

This recommendation is your opportunity to discuss your thoughts on your topic question. What is your opinion of the subject? Consider what audience this question is directed at and what further research could be done to expand your topic even further.

**Summary**

While the summary goes at the beginning of your research report, it is the last thing you write. 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.

Make some point form notes about what you have learned. 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). Now that youʼve completed your Research Report Outline, you can use it to write your final report.

Use full sentences and complete paragraphs in your final report

Include a title page and a “Works Cited” (sources) page

Make sure to include headings and subheadings for your various sections

Use 11-point, double-spaced font

**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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**Beyond Google: Becoming a Better Online Researcher**

There is a lot of information in the internet. This can be a challenge when doing academic research. When you are trying to decide if a website is a good, reliable source to use, ask yourself a few questions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Is it **credible**? | • Does the website have a good reputation?• Is the author an expert in his/her field?• Is the language and style of writing clearand correct? |
| Is it **accurate**? | • Is it up-to-date?• Does it acknowledge many points of view?• Is it detailed? |
| Is it **reasonable**? | • Are the points fair and objective?• Does it focus on facts rather than opinions? |
| Is it **supported**? | • Are the sources identified?• Are the facts found in the website confirmed by other websites or sources? |

If you can answer yes to most or all of these points, your website is probably reliable.

Hint: If websites end in *.edu*, *.gov*, or *.gc.ca*, the website is maintained by an educational institution (school, college, university) or a government department. These websites are *usually* more reliable than others, but not always. Make sure you check with the questions above.

**Alternative Search Engines**

Google is great, but each time you search a term, it draws from information in hundreds of millions of sites. How do we know which ones are written by real experts? When youʼre doing school research, try using one of the following search engines for more specific results:

*FindingDulcinea* [(http://www.findingdulcinea.com/):](http://www.findingdulcinea.com/) This search engine only accesses sites that have been deemed “high-quality and trustworthy” by the companyʼs researchers.

*SweetSearch* [(http://www.sweetsearch.com/):](http://www.sweetsearch.com/) This search engine, an offshoot of FindingDulcinea, was especially created for student research. The websites in the search engineʼs database have been “evaluated and approved” by a variety of researchers and educators.

The results that turn up on these sites are more likely to be **credible and accurate**, so theyʼre a good place to start your research. This *does not* mean you should use these sources without questioning them. Always make sure that you quickly evaluate each site you access, taking time to look for the red flags that might signal an unreliable site.

**Google Advanced Search**

If you still need or want to use Google, try using the “Advanced Search” function. This provides you with a variety of options to narrow your search to something more specific and helpful.

Click on the “wheel” symbol for a drop-down menu.

Click “Advanced Search”

**Using Wikipedia**

Wikipedia is a great resource. Many people have spent countless hours collecting and inputting the information you see on each page. But the problem is that *anyone* can edit the pages to say *anything*, which can be a big problem if youʼre writing a report that needs good, accurate research.

Instead, use Wikipedia as a starting point. Gather some key words and search terms on your topic and do your own research based on those ideas.



Alternatively, you can look to the “References” section at the bottom of any Wikipedia page to see where the authors got their information.

You can click on many of these links to see the exact source of the information. From there, you can analyze the webpage. Is it credible and reliable? If so, use it!

**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. In-text Citation

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 Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4** |
| Outline | I used the outline to organize my thoughts a little bit. | I used the outline occasionally to organize my thoughts. | I used the outline to organize most of my thoughts. | I used the outline completely and with attention to detail. |
| Findings Paragrap hs | I have included one “findings” paragraph. | I have included two “findings” paragraphs. | I have included three “findings” paragraphs. | I have included four or more “findings” paragraphs. |
| Research | I used only one source. I am not sure if my source was reliable. | I used at least two sources. I attempted to look for reliable sources. | I used at least three sources. I asked myself questions to make sure the sources were reliable. | I used four or more sources. I made sure that my sources were reliable before using them. |
| Style | I used point form or incomplete sentences/I used one or two headings and subheadings. | I wrote in full sentences mostof the time/I used headings and subheadingsmost of the time. | I wrote in full sentences all of the time/I correctly used headings and subheadings. | I wrote in full, clear, and varied sentences/I correctly used headings and subheadings with clear titles. |
| Citation | I only cited one or two of my sources/I didnʼt follow the MLA style very closely. | I cited most of my sources/I am working towards using the MLA style correctly. | I cited all of my sources/I used the MLA style almost perfectly. | I cited all of my sources/I used the MLA style perfectly. |

**What I did well:! ! ! ! ! How I can improve:**