Media Research Report

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

**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).

**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.**

**Now that your research and organization is complete, it is time to begin your report.**

**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 plan your introduction. Now you may begin typing and expanding on your points.

**Findings**

Each category of your findings will have its own subheading which should appear directly after your Findings heading. Under this subheading gather your organized research and provide a paragraph of information for this subheading. Anything information not from your brain will need to be referenced.

 We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily

 accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environment change…”

 (“Impact of Global Warming”).

**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**? Briefly restate your findings and how they help to answer your topic question.

**Recommendations**

This is your opportunity to discuss your thoughts on your topic question. What is **your opinion** of the subject? What can you recommend in terms of dealing with this issue? Consider who might be interested by this question and what further research could be done to expand your topic even further.

**Summary**

While the summary is the last thing you write, it goes at the **beginning** of your research report. Scroll up to the top of your report and create a summary heading before your introduction. In business, the summary offers a preview to the report, almost like the blurb on the back of a book. In your summary, you want to provide a brief overview of your report in its entirety. The summary should be fairly brief but cover the main details. Tell your reader the conclusions you have come to about your topic as a result of studying this question and writing this report.

**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).

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)*

 Your name

 Miss Gaulin

 ENG 4CR

 Date submitted

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*Type your introduction here.*

**Discussion/Findings**

Subheading # 1 \*<- this is called a subheading. It explains exactly what findings 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 after the "first line of the citation,*

 *the* *lines are bumped over by one tab*

 *space.*

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