



Part 2: Research Writing Tips

Presented by: Jade J. O'Dell, PhD
October 10 & 11, 2012



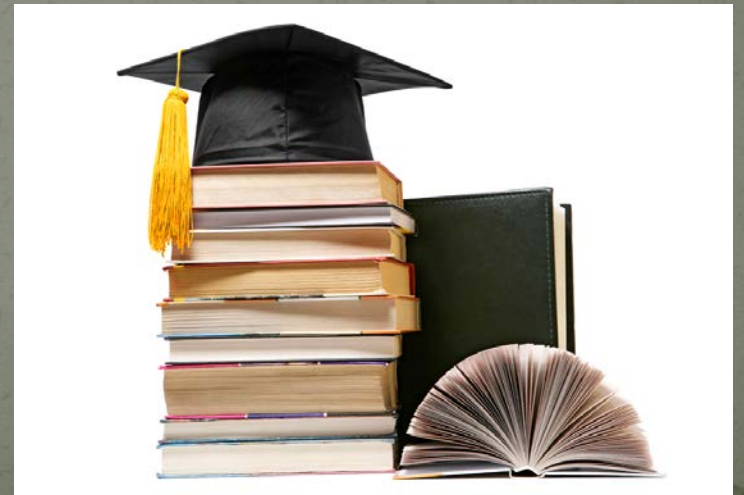
Research Writing

- What is research writing?
 - Presents a thorough exploration of a topic
 - Uses sources to support your OWN ideas
 - Requires an investigation of a RANGE of sources on your topic



What do sources in research do?

- Provide important statistics
- explain specialized procedures or technical information
- Provide background information
- Cite the views of an authority on the topic
- Provide relevant explanation
- Provide supporting detail

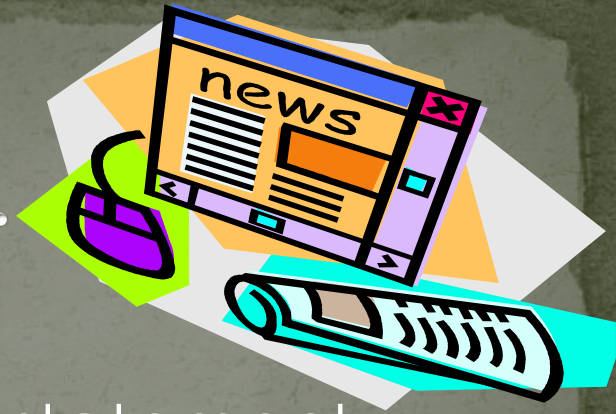


The Research Process

- Choose a broad topic
- Understand your purpose – What type of paper are you being asked to write?
 - Problem-solution paper: How parents can limit their preschoolers' exposure to televised violence
 - Argumentation paper: why the government should limit violence on television
 - Explanatory paper: the nature and amount of violence on primetime network television

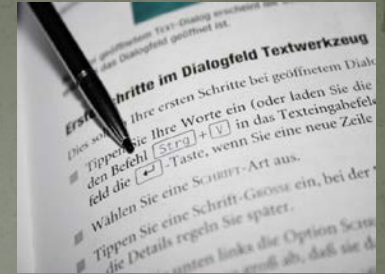
Research Process cont.

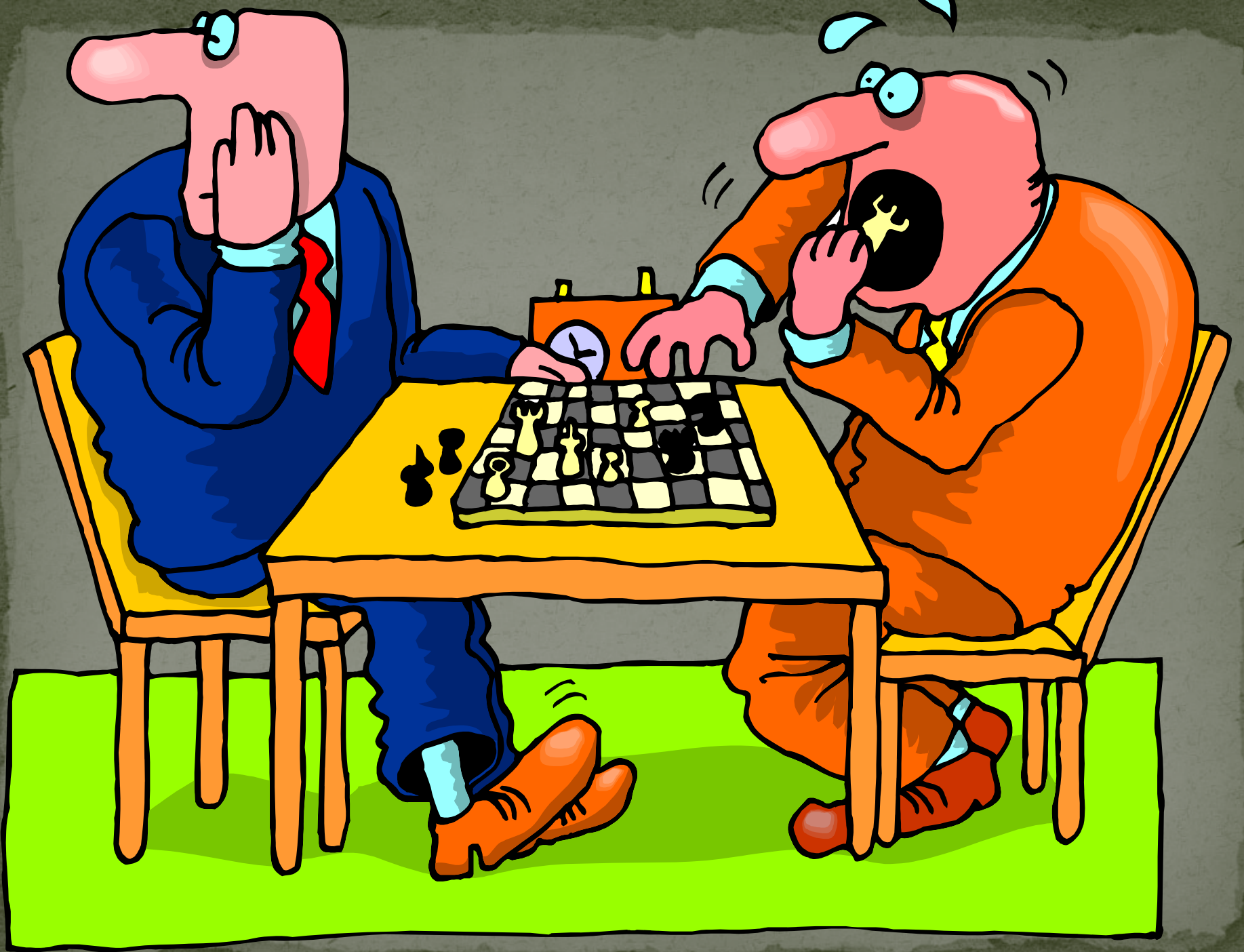
- Understand the assignment
- Draft a preliminary thesis/purpose statement
- Locate sources; know how many your teachers require & whether they want books, articles...
 - Books
 - Articles/journals
 - Reference pages from published articles
 - Scholarly websites/search engines (googlescholar.com)
 - Do field research – talk to people who KNOW about your topic



Read & Annotate Sources

- Are they trustworthy? Where did they come from? (Hint...if they came from *The Enquirer*, chances are they are not trustworthy)
- Annotate sources – write notes/questions in margins, circle important information you may want to use in your paper
- Summarize sources on index cards (Each source should have its own card)





Use the right “P!”

- PARAPHRASE..NOT PLAGIARIZE!
- Paraphrase: restatement of an author’s original ideas in your own words & style...know your writing style
 - You must alter the style & wording of the original material
 - You may not add any ideas
 - You may not alter the meaning of the original material in any way
 - You MUST still give author credit for his/her idea even when you paraphrase

Direct Quotes

- Sometimes, the author says it best, so you may want to quote him or her.
- For example: “An economic system does not exist alone. A person or collection of people will make major decisions about how to use resources and allocate goods” (Schaefer 423).
- You can combine paraphrasing and quotes if it works better for your style



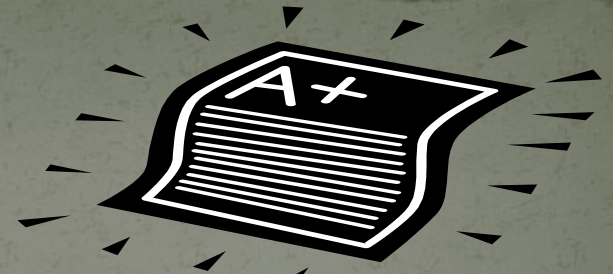


Exhaust Your Sources...not yourself!

- Go through each source thoroughly; skim them more than once
- Based on your summary index cards, decide what sources are most useful to the overall purpose of your paper
- Remember to go through sources' bibliography/works cited pages...you may find more resources that are useful



Write a Draft



- Introduction should have some sort of "HOOK"
- Introduction should be in the present verb tense
- When you quote or paraphrase an author, you must always give him or her credit, otherwise you are plagiarizing
- Do not curse in your writing, even if you are thinking it!
- Write in a formal, academic voice



Intro, Body, Conclusion

- Remember, your introduction should give background information based on the topic and end with YOUR THESIS STATEMENT (Purpose)
- You should have info based on both sides of the argument in intro
- The BODY focuses on your ideas and YOUR side of the argument, using your research sources as support...CREDIBLE SUPPORT MAKES YOU MORE CREDIBLE!
- Conclusion should bring paper to a close...make some recommendations based on your topic, for instance

Quotes/Punctuation



- End marks, like periods, question marks, commas, always go outside parenthesis if you have a source at the end of your sentence
 - Some authors have claimed that if you study hard, you can pass any type of test (O'Dell 422).
If there is a quote in the middle of sentence, comma goes inside the quote
Jade O'Dell has claimed that, "the most successful college students are the ones who go to class," and the ones who show they care (455).

Bibliography

- A bibliography or works cited page is the last page (s) of your paper
- This page shows all of the resources you used to support your argument/ideas
- Know the format (MLA/APA) your teacher wants you to use
- Always in alphabetical order by author's last name or if not author, use title of article



Check yourself!



- Make sure your writing style is formal and academic...avoid conversational language
- A missing period on your bibliography page could cause you to lose points
- Check yourself for paraphrasing and quoting
- Do not OVER QUOTE...instead, put it in your OWN WORDS
- Do not be tempted to purchase a paper online...teachers have plagiarism software!

Helpful websites

- Grammargirl.com (great for punctuation help)
- owl.english.purdue.edu
- www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla
- For scholarly online articles
 - Googlescholar.com

