

Research Guide

Name: _____

Possible topics:	
Final choice:	

Preliminary research questions:

These should be open-ended questions that cannot be answered simply.

What aspects of this topic are intriguing, unclear, or key to a deeper understanding?

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

Preliminary research:

Investigate your topic informally. You need not record notes or source information. Try to determine if your research questions are appropriate for the topic and assignment.

Final research questions:

Fine-tune your research questions. Now that you know more, what deserves exploration?

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

Works Cited Page

Creating a works cited page is not rocket science, but it is extremely important and requires practice. If you do not cite your research, you will look unprofessional and not be taken seriously. There are different forms of citation for science, history, and language arts. We will be using the MLA (Modern Language Association) format.

MLA format has two parts that work together.

1) In-text citation

In-text citation is short and sweet and comes immediately after the cited information in the composition. The reader can use it to find the complete information in the works cited page. You must use in-text citations whether you are paraphrasing or quoting.

Examples:

Typical in-text citation:	Blah blah blah (Phillips 43).
No author given and no pagination:	Blah blah blah ("The Center of the Universe").

2) Works cited page

The works cited page comes at the end of the composition and is more complete. It has all the information about the source that another researcher might want. Each source becomes an entry on a list and each entry contains the author, title, publication, date, and other information depending on the source type.

Example for a website:

Cain, Kevin. "The Negative Effects of Facebook on Communication." <i>Social Media Today RSS</i> N.p., 29 June 2012. Web. 02 Jan. 2020.

You are fortunate that you can use programs like [EasyBib](#) or [BibMe](#) to format the entries for you.

Formatting the page: (Visit [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) for more specifics and examples.)

- **Works Cited** — must be centered at the top of a separate page
- **Alphabetize** the entries by the first letters of each.
- **Titles** must be italicized or placed in quotes as appropriate.
- **Double-spaced** —Do not add extra spaces between entries.
- **Indent** the second line of each entry.