

Writing...The Research Report

Lesson Objectives:

1. to know the requirements for writing this research report
2. Begin to explore various topic ideas.
3. To bring yourself through the required stages of research writing and paper completed by:

Due Date: (Insert Date)

Research Report

- A research report is an expository (informational) piece of writing, designed to give in-depth information about a specific topic.
- For this writing, you will be expected to produce **5-6 paragraphs** of typed writing. The information you write is based upon research of *your chosen* topic. The research should be obtained from a *minimum* of 3 different sources.
- You are expected to be independent in all stages of preparing and writing your research report.
- This week is the prewrite stage and **that is your only focus.**

Your topic... Astronomy

- **Week 1: Prewrite Stage**
Explore at least 3 ideas for researching. Narrow down your topics through research and use this time to be sure it is a topic that is both interesting to you and has an adequate amount of information available for you, and must be understood by you. The sources should be gathered from age appropriate sources (not written for a scientist) and Wikipedia is NOT allowed. During this stage, you take notes and keep track of your sources for your bibliography. By the end of week one, you should be developing an outline.
- **Week 2: Drafting/Revising**
This involves going from outline to draft, revising your draft as you go through the writing stage.
- **Week 3: Revising/Editing/and preparing your Final Copy and Bibliography**

For This Week...The Prewrite Stage.

1. **Think about a topic** that you would like to do. It needs to be connected to our science unit, Astronomy.
 - When you are thinking about a topic; ask yourself some questions like "What do I really want to know about this subject?" or "What subject would be worth investigating and writing about?" The most important stage is when picking out a topic. 3 weeks of writing can be painful if you pick a topic that is not interesting, nor fun for you.
 - Look through your science book for ideas. Check out internet kid-friendly sites like:
<http://www.kidinfo.com/science/astronomy.html>
 - and NASA for Kids.
 - Go to the library.

Some Past topic ideas

- Asteroids
- Black Holes
- Specific Planets
- Comets
- Eclipses
- N.A.S.A.
- Famous Astronomers
- Famous Astronauts
- The Sun
- Our Moon
- Stars
- Constellations
- Pluto and dwarf planets
- How Native Americans used the skies to tell time.

Once you have your topic in mind-

1. You then have to decide on **one main question you want to answer** in your paper. (For example; if you were doing a paper on Mars, your main question for research might be "Has there ever been life on Mars?" This main question is called the **Thesis Statement** and it is what guides your research. A good thesis statement establishes the right "tone" of your paper and the direction of your writing. It lets the reader know what they should be learning right from the start. It is always in your introduction paragraph.
2. Once you decide on your thesis statement, you dive deeper into your **researching**, looking only for information that answers your thesis statement/question. You are always taking notes on your topic. You maintain all of your notes in your writers folder. You will need to keep track of where you found all the information, so that you can do your bibliography in the end.
3. During this stage, remember your thesis statement. Keep thinking about it because everything else in the paper becomes a supporting detail for your topic.

Research Notes to Outline

After you have done your research, you take all your notes and create an outline of your paper. This is when you lay out the format of what you want to write and the order that you want to put it in.

- ❖ Your outline should have:
 - I. Introduction (includes your thesis statement, topic sentence)
 - II. Subtopic and supporting details
 - III. Subtopic and supporting details
 - IV. Subtopic and supporting details
 - V. Subtopic and supporting details.
 - VI. Conclusion (which restates your thesis and pulls your whole paper together)

Important requirements....

- When doing research/writing at home, you must be able to print out and bring the research/writing to school. When we give writing time here, saying *"I am working on it at home"* is not acceptable to us. It is good to work on it at home, but it also needs to be here and available to work on, when we are doing so as a class. We want to see it and see that you are working on it. We will want to look at your writing during each stage, and this includes your research stage.

Today's Objective for your Research Report

- **Learning Objective:** to explore ideas that you are interested in and be able to cite 3 different topic ideas, narrowed down to one by Wed.
- **Proving Behavior:**
 1. Topic decided by Wednesday (Insert Date)
 2. Outline due on Monday, (Insert Date)

Any Questions?



Writing



- **Learning Objective:** to continue with researching of topics, and be prepared to identify your topic and thesis statement by tomorrow.



Writing




Learning Objectives:

1. to identify your final topic and thesis statement required for the first stage in writing your research paper.
2. to continue on with the research, gathering enough information to produce amount required.
3. To save notes in a writing notebook, along with any sources used (needed for bibliography).

Writing

- **Learning Objective:** Using all of your notes taken, to begin organizing them into an outline.



- Outline completed and checked in by Monday.

Outline Example

I. Introduction Paragraph (includes thesis statement)

II. Main Idea

- One detail connected to the topic idea.
- Another detail connected to the topic.
- Another detail connected to the topic.

III. Main Idea

- One detail connected to the topic idea.
- Another detail connected to the topic.
- Another detail connected to the topic.

V. Conclusion (or Wrap-Up)

Outlining Structure

I. **Introduction paragraph** includes your
Thesis Statement: _____
_____ and extra information _____

II. **First Subtopic (or Reason)** (Create an IVF Topic Sentence)

(This is one of your facts which will support your thesis statement. It is the beginning of what you will lay out as the answer/proof to your thesis statement)

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

III. **Second Subtopic** (Create an IVF Topic Sentence)

(This is another fact which will still supports your thesis statement. It is another reason which will confirm your thesis statement.)

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

IV. **Third Subtopic** (Create an IVF Topic Sentence)

(Yet another fact which will support your thesis statement.)

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

V. **Fourth Subtopic** (Create an IVF Topic Sentence)

(And another fact which will support your thesis statement.)

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

VI. **Concluding Paragraph**

(This paragraph is your wrap-up. It pulls together all your thoughts and ideas and brings together your reason for writing. It is the paragraph in which you restate, with confidence, your thesis statement and leaves your reader convinced that your thesis statement was correct.)

