

Writing an Academic Research Paper

LIB 1201

November 11, 2013

Research Paper Strategies

- Start by presenting and summarizing your sources
 - Badke: describe then analyze (p. 167)
 - Summaries: [Columbia University guide](#)
 - Paraphrasing: [library handout](#), [Purdue OWL](#)
- Avoid excessive quotation
 - I need to hear your voice and thoughts!
 - 2 short sentences of 35 words max per quote

More Research Paper Strategies

- Finally, analyze your sources in light of your research question
 - And arrive at conclusions
 - Was your research question answered?
 - Do you have any recommendations?
 - Conclusions do not need to be long!

General Writing Advice

- Omit needless words
- Spellcheck (F7 key on a PC), proofread; watch your CAPS, commas, semicolons
- Purdue [OWL](#) for almost any writing question
- “*it is,*” “*that is,*” “*they are*” NOT *it’s, that’s, they’re*
- Avoid “Basically,” “and so on.” “etc.”
- Do not use first or second person: *I, you, we*

Writing Strategies

Establish why your claims are important

X matters/is important because _____.

Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over _____.

Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.

These findings have important consequences for the broader domain of _____.

These conclusions will have significant applications in _____ as well as in _____.

Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____.

More Writing Strategies

Introduce quotations

X states, “_____.”

According to X, “_____.”

In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.”

Writing the journal *Commentary*, X complains that, “_____.”

In X’s view, “_____.”

X complicates matters further when he writes, “_____.”

Explain quotations

In other words, X believes _____.

In making this comment, X argues that _____.

X’s point is that _____.

The essence of X’s argument is that _____.

Even more writing strategies

Disagree with your sources and offer reasons

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

X's claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

Proponents of X are right to argue that _____. But they exaggerate when they claim that _____.

While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.

Agree with sources and offer your own analysis

X is surely right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.

X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____.

Let's review Badke chapter 10 and the Guidelines

- Badke, chapter 10 [abridged online version](#)
- [Research paper draft guidelines](#) from LIB 1201 on the OpenLab

Writing Strategies

Establish why your claims are important

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These findings have important consequences for the broader domain of _____.

These conclusions will have significant applications in _____ as well as in _____.

Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____.

Introduce and Explain Quotations

Introduce quotations

X states, “_____.”

According to X, “_____.”

In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.”

Writing in the *Journal of ABC*, X complains that, “_____.”

In X’s view, “_____.”

X complicates matters further when she writes, “_____.”

Explain quotations

In other words, X believes _____.

In making this comment, X argues that _____.

X’s point is that _____.

The essence of X’s argument is that _____.

Adapted from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter In Academic Writing. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006.

Agree and Disagree with your sources to synthesize your research and offer new knowledge

Disagree with your sources and offer reasons

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

X's claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

Proponents of X are right to argue that _____. But they exaggerate when they claim that _____.

While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.

Agree with sources and offer your own analysis

X is surely right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.

X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____.

Parenthetical documentation in MLA:

Refer to relevant source information when you quote or paraphrase

Known author: Lastname describes social media as “ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing” (263).

There is ample evidence that copyright lawsuits result in xyz and abc (Lastname 222).

No known author/no page number: There are many ways to define privacy, including as a “morbi sit amet ligula sapien” (Reliablewebsite).

- If you use an in-text parenthetical citation, the source must appear on your Works Cited page
- See the [OWL](#) for more examples or use [EasyBib](#) for help

Working with Track Changes in Word

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqzn4mtVoic>

See [Track changes while you edit](#) for more help

They Say/I Say: The moves that matter

- Download today's slides from OpenLab site
- Review slides on writing strategies, introducing and explaining quotations, agree/disagree with your sources
- Select at least ONE source from your annotated bibliography and read it (them?)
- Write ONE paragraph where you practice at least 2 of these:
 - Establish importance of your claims
 - Introduce and explain a quotation
 - Disagree with your sources and offer reasons OR agree with your sources and offer your own analysis

Think/Pair/Share

- Divide into groups of 2
- One person speaks, the other listens and writes; after 5 minutes exchange roles
 - Discuss your experience as a writer of research papers
 - what has worked for you in the past? What questions do you have about the process? What advice would you give another student?
- Be prepared to share with the group

For Wednesday, November 13

Discussion: Rationale for documentation and citation

Reading: Hauptman pp. 7-13; if you missed class get the book on reserve in the library (call number PN171 .F56 H38 2008)

Bugeja & Dimitrova, [What, in fact, causes footnotes to vanish?](#) (pp. 33-39 of eBook available from City Tech Library catalog)

Blogging: Write one reading response blog post

The research paper draft is due on Monday, November 18 by the beginning of class!