

Essay 3 Writing Steps

Forming research questions, an hypothesis, & finding sources

Should "Gender Identity"
be added to
anti-discrimination
Laws?

1. Choose a social issue. It should be one with no easy answer and that you want to spend time exploring. Search wikipedia.org or other Internet sites to get a quick overview of your topic and its related issues. Form questions (essential and supporting) to guide you.

2. Choose a topic area

example: • Topic: American Dieting in the 21st Century

3. Write 1 (essential) research question that you can use to start and guide your research.

example: • Research Question: Why are fad diets so popular in America?

4. Brainstorm 5-20 supporting questions about subtopics you can research to understand your topic better.

• Supporting Questions:

- How many Americans diet each year?
- Do fad diets really work?
- Are fad diets popular in other countries?
- What effect do diets have on the body?
- What does it say about women's place in society that women diet more than men?

5. Use the above questions to form an hypothesis to guide your paper. The hypothesis is what you plan to test in your paper. It should result from your questions and answers to them that you have researched. Be as specific as possible, limiting your topic to a workable level of detail. Make the hypothesis one sentence only and include the **social group** and a specific **situation** that you are writing about.

Hypothesis:

Diet pills are popular with 30-something American professional women because they are so busy at work and at home that they do not have time to exercise enough, so they depend on pills and "miracle" diets to compensate.

6. After the working hypothesis, you can begin finding sources that will inform your exploration of the topic.

- A. Find some historic information to give you a grounding on the issue.
- B. Find sources on all sides of the issue—for, against, and undecided—and sources about related issues. For example, in the hypothesis above, related issues one could search for working women's time issues, miracle/fad diets, exercise & (working) women, dieting health risks, etc.
- C. Gather twice the amount of sources officially needed.
- D. Read and whittle the sources down to the 10 best ones.
- E. Take notes and organize the information from good sources into an outline (like the synthesis paper).
- F. Refine your hypothesis along the way, if needed.
- G. Gather quotations you can use.
- H. Draft the paper.

Essay 3: Inquiry-Based Research

College Writing 2 • Spring 2017 • Draft due April 20

Topic

In this paper, form a hypothesis about the causes/effects of a **CONTROVERSIAL** or debatable social issue that there is no definitive answer for; then, do research to find the strengths and weaknesses of your hypothesis to determine its validity. All subjects must be approved by your teacher, and all students must have a different topic.

Research

Research information to help you prove or disprove your hypothesis. You must use electronic sources, no printed ones. The options are any library database, newspaper, .ORG (other than *wikipedia*), .GOV, or .EDU site. If you think you may need additional resources—like a blog—consult with the teacher first before using them. The aim of the research is to find credible information to examine the strengths and the weaknesses of your hypothesis and then explain if it was accurate and the importance of that finding for the future.

Format

The paper should have 8 sections: an introduction, historical overview, 3-5 pros (factors arguing for your hypothesis), 3-5 cons (factors arguing against your hypothesis), results (final assessment if the hypothesis is correct), implications (for future), references, and appendix (charts/diagrams/images used to backup each part).

Turn In

Paper

- Title page
- Outline (with hypothesis at top & at least two sub-points per body paragraph)
- 8 page essay
 - introduction
 - overview of country's needs
 - pros
 - cons
 - results
 - predictions/future implications (conclusion)
- 3 Citations per body paragraph (minimum) – (Smith, 2010, para. 3) or (Smith, 2010, p. 8)
- References (10 sources)
- Appendix (4 charts/graphs minimum) that are referred to in the paper.
- Use Sectional Headings

Notes

Turn in a complete draft only: title page, outline, essay, references, and appendix. See page 3 for homework due dates. Homework ***must be*** turned in before the paper is due.