

Word Project #2 – Research/Argumentative Paper

Something you will be using word for *a lot* in the next few years is research, or argumentative, papers.

Many of you have already had to do so. Word has some great tools to utilize in doing these sort of projects that will make the process MUCH easier.

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC AND WRITE YOUR PURPOSE OR THESIS STATEMENT.

Today you will use your previously learned search techniques to decide your topic and write your purpose, or thesis statement.

A mistake student researchers sometimes make is choosing a topic that is too broad. Choose a general area that interests you, for example, Natural Disasters. Next, narrow the topic several times:

Natural Disasters
Earthquakes
Predicting Earthquakes
Scientific Advances in Earthquake Prediction
*Use of Computer Simulations in Predicting Earthquakes

Another example of narrowing your topic:
Vitamins
Vitamin C
Value of Vitamin C to the body
*Effectiveness of Vitamin C in fighting colds

Keep your list – if you've chosen a topic that's TOO narrow or obscure, you may want to back up a step to find more information. If you're not sure you've chosen a good topic, ask your teachers opinion.

Next, write your PURPOSE STATEMENT or THESIS STATEMENT.

If you are writing a survey or report, you will need a purpose statement – a statement that says what the paper will explore or report on. (Ex: "The purpose of this report is to identify and explain the four methods of AIDS testing which are most commonly used.")

If you are doing a research/argument paper, you will need a thesis statement – a statement which makes a debatable claim which your research will either prove or disprove. (Ex: "Taking Vitamin B6 in controlled amounts can significantly increase the overall performance of marathon runners.")

Use your purpose statement or thesis statement as a "bull's eye" – make sure every paragraph you write relates to your thesis. This will help you avoid wandering off topic and including irrelevant information.