

Prewriting: Choosing and Narrowing a Subject

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizers below to help you choose and narrow a subject for your research report.

- Evaluate several possible subjects by answering the questions, and select a subject to research.
- Create a cluster diagram to narrow this subject into individual parts, and identify one part that you could explain well in a research report.
- Write your focused topic in the form of a statement.

Possible Subjects	Can I find enough facts about this subject? Where?	Will I be able to get the information I need in time? How?	Can I make this topic interesting to others? How?
1.			
2.			
3.			

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

My focused topic is _____.

Prewriting: Purpose and Audience

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you think about purpose and audience.

► **My Topic:**

► **What does my audience already know about my topic?**

► **What does my audience need to know to understand my topic?**

► **What else will my audience want to know about my topic?**

Prewriting: Developing a Research Question

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you develop a research question.

- Brainstorm several questions using the *5W-How?* technique.
- Look for a “big picture” question that will lead you to answers for many of your other questions. If your questions do not include a broad question, write one that will lead to answers for most of your questions.

Who?	
What?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	
How?	
“Big picture” question:	

for **YOUR TURN 7** page 177

Prewriting: Finding Sources

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizers below to help you find and evaluate sources for your report.

- Find and list a variety of reliable and up-to-date sources, answering the questions for each source. Use additional paper if necessary.
- Choose at least three different sources to use for your report, and create a source card for each source or write the information in the boxes below. Use the chart on page 176 as a guide. Use additional paper if necessary.

Source title	Is the source nonfiction?	Is the information current?	Is the information trustworthy?
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Source card 1

Source card 2

Source card 3

Prewriting: Researching Your Topic

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizers below to help you take notes from your sources.

- Refer to these samples as you continue to fill out notecards. Use additional notecards as necessary.

category label/ source number	_____
notes in your own words	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
page number(s)	_____

category label/ source number	_____
notes in your own words	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
page number(s)	_____

Prewriting: Writing a Main Idea Statement

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you write a main idea statement for your research report.

► **Research question:**

+

► **Most important thing I learned about my topic:**

=

► **Main idea statement:**

Essay Outline

I. Introduction (How will you start the paper?)

A. _____

B. _____

C.. _____

D. _____

E. Thesis:

II. First Supporting Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence:

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. Closing Sentence:

III. Second Supporting Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence:

B.

C.

D.

E. Closing Sentence:

IV. Third Supporting Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence:

B.

C. _____

D. _____

E. Closing Sentence:

V. Conclusion

A. Topic Sentence (Restate Thesis):

B. Summary of First Supporting Paragraph:

C. Summary of Second Supporting Paragraph:

D. Summary of Third Supporting Paragraph:

E. Closing Statement:

Revising: Research Report

DIRECTIONS Use the chart below to help you improve your research report.

QUESTIONS	DO THIS	CHANGES YOU MADE
1. Does the introduction contain a clear main idea statement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Put a star next to the statement that tells readers the report's topic and main point.	
2. Does each paragraph explain no more than one subtopic from your outline?	<input type="checkbox"/> Label the margin of each paragraph with the subtopic it explains.	
3. Does each paragraph include facts, statistics, examples, direct quotations, or conclusions that elaborate on the subtopic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight the facts and explanations in each paragraph.	
4. Is there an unanswered question or final comment in the conclusion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Put a check mark next to the question or final statement.	
5. Does the Works Cited list include at least three sources?	<input type="checkbox"/> Number the sources listed in the Works Cited list.	

Name: _____

Research Paper Scoring Rubric

Category One: Supporting Paragraphs

- 3 Points: You have excellent supporting paragraphs which elaborate on each reason. The paragraphs each contain at least one citation (quote) with strong elaboration.
- 2 Points: You have good supporting paragraphs which elaborate on each reason. The paragraphs each contain at least one citation (quote) with good elaboration.
- 1 Point: You have fair supporting paragraphs which elaborate on each reason. The paragraphs each contain at least one citation (quote) with fair elaboration.
- 0 Point: You have poor supporting paragraphs. The paragraphs have weak elaboration, and/or your paragraphs are missing citations.

Your score: _____

Category Two: MLA Formatting

- 3 Points: Your essay has excellent MLA formatting. It has zero or one error both in the citations and in the Works Cited; it has no plagiarism; and it is free of opinion being used as fact.
- 2 Points: Your essay has good MLA formatting. It is mostly free of errors both in the citations and in the Works Cited; it has no plagiarism; and it is free of opinion being used as fact.
- 1 Point: Your essay has fair MLA formatting. It has some errors either in the citations and/or in the Works Cited; it has no plagiarism; and it is mostly free of opinion being used as fact.
- 0 Point: Your essay has poor MLA formatting. It has many errors both in the citations or in the Works Cited; it has no plagiarism; and/or it has some opinion being used as fact. Or your essay has plagiarism.

Your score: _____

Category Three: Holistic Score

Holistic Scoring of the essay, from 1-6:

Your score: _____

Late? Take off one grade for each day: _____

Your point total: _____

Grade Scale:

Point Total	Grade	Point Total	Grade	Point Total	Grade
12	A+	7	B-	2	D
11	A	6	C+	1	D-
10	A-	5	C	0	F
9	B+	4	C-		
8	B	3	D+		

Your Grade: _____

