

Writing a

Research

Paper

Sampler





Writing a Research Report



Step by Step Writing Guide

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Writing a Research Report

Have you ever wanted to learn something new? Maybe you've had a question about why the clouds look fluffy on one day, and feathery on another. You could find the answer in a variety of different ways; you could ask your teacher, read a book about clouds, watch a video, or even interview an expert. The process of finding your answer is called **researching**. Researching is when we ask a question, then gather information from a variety of different sources to answer it.



The purpose of writing a research paper is to give your reader information about a specific subject that you yourself have spent time investigating. You can use books, magazines, encyclopedias, the internet, and even personal interviews to gather your information.

You can use this writing opportunity to learn more about an animal that interests you. So what animal do you want to know more about?





Step by Step Writing Guide

Step 1: Chose your Animal

A) Think of animals that you find interesting. Do a quick search online or through an encyclopedia to learn about new animals. Use your Hot Topics sheet.

B) After you have decided on your animal, it's good to write out facts that you already know. Use your Brainstorming Sheet to keep track of these facts.

B) Start your research. Use dictionaries, encyclopedias, online searches, and non-fiction library books. Use your Detail Detective to organize all the facts that you find. Don't forget to keep track of every source that you take information from, use your Citing Sources Guide as you work.

Step 2: Write Your First Draft.

A) Begin to write your paper using your Writing Guide.

B) Start to brainstorm a good title for your paper. Use your Tool Box if you get stuck.

Step 3: Review & Revise.

A) Read your paper out loud. Have you described your animal correctly? Are your facts organized into thematic paragraphs...do any facts need to switch?

B) Is your paper exciting? Are your facts presented in an exciting way? Scan your story for places you might add a few describing words and more unique facts. Read your paper out loud to a parent or friend.

Step 4: Edit, Edit, Edit.

A). Check your paper for any errors. Use your Editing sheet to find any spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Be sure your sentences are complete.

Step 5: Write your Final Draft.

A). Use nice paper, your best handwriting and double check for any errors.



Writing a Research Report

HOT TOPICS

Animals that I find interesting:

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If you get stuck try looking up different animals in an animal encyclopedia. You might even do a web search for "World's strangest animals," to start. You can even begin to think of some questions you might want answered, such as, "Why does a snake stick out it's tongue?" or "How many bones are in a giraffe's neck." Sometimes starting with your questions will lead you to the topic you wish to research.

Write the name of the animal you are going to research here:



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Brainstorming

Quick thoughts about my animal:

These are things I already know about my animal:

These are some questions I'd like to learn the answer to:



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Detail Detective



It's time to collect details and facts about your animal. Read through this list of facts so you know what specific information you are looking for. You can also add more facts using the blank space at the end of this list. Don't forget to keep track of your sources with your citing sources worksheet.

My Animal:

Weight:

Height:

Length:

Appearance:

Movement:

Diet:

Geographic Range:



Writing a Research Report

Detail
Detective



Habitat:

Life Cycle:

Predators:

Prey:

Offense & Defense:

Classification:



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Detail
Detective



Behavior Patterns:

More Facts:
