

Writing a Research Paper

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1. Evaluate the parameters of the assignment:

Choosing a Topic

Do you already have a topic or is the topic chosen for you?

- Brainstorming/Clustering/Freewriting
- Decide when to limit your topic.

Research

- How long do you have to do the research?
- How much research do you need? How much is required?
- How much time do you need to get the research materials?
- Are there specific types of research required?
- Will you need to order from interlibrary loan?
- What indexes/catalogs will you use?
- Go to the Library – work with the reference librarians when appropriate.

Length/Format

- How many pages are required?
- Is there a set format?
- What bibliographic style should be used?
- Start keeping your materials in the format that will be used.

2. Set up a work plan:

- Get a calendar – mark off “due dates” for yourself