



Qualities of a Good Research Paper

Top 10 Qualities

1. Successful papers stay tightly focused on their thesis, the point they are arguing.
2. The paper shows that the writer has a strong understanding of the topic and source material used.
3. The paper shows that the writer has read widely on the topic, including the works of recognized authorities in the field.

Top 10 Qualities

4. The paper includes an acknowledgement of the opposition but shows why the point being argued is more valid.
5. Proof for the paper's thesis is organized in a clear and logical way.
6. Each point is supported by solid, persuasive facts and by examples.
7. The work is original, not plagiarized. Every outside source is carefully documented.

Top 10 Qualities

8. All supporting material used in preparation of the paper can be verified.
9. The paper follows a specific format, including the use of correct documentation and a Works Cited page.
10. The paper uses standard written English. This is the level of diction and usage expected of educated people in high schools, colleges, universities, and work settings.

Finding and Narrowing Topics

- You already have your general subject that was approved by the Senior Project Committee.
- Now you just need to narrow it down into a topic that you can write about.

Finding and Narrowing Your Topic

- Consider the parameters of the paper.
 - Time: Due February 11
 - Length: 8-10 pages of content
 - Research: How much info is available?
 - Sources: 5 sources, 3 print
- Consider your audience

Finding and Narrowing Your Topic

- Checklist

- Is my topic too limited?
- Is my topic still too broad?
- Is my topic too technical?
- Is my topic stale?
- Is my topic too controversial?
- Is the topic too new?
- Do I like my topic enough to want to write a research paper on it?