

Research Writing

ATh 609

Research Writing for Leadership and Business

LS 620

Week 1 Assignment 1

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Terminology:

(Look up the following words and write the definition that correlates with research and writing. Each term is in some way a part of the writing process. Show how each one fits into the development of a research paper. (At least one paragraph per term)

1. Thesis

A thesis is a treatise advancing a new point of view resulting from research; usually a requirement for an advanced academic degree. It is a proposition that is maintained by an argument. A thesis is also defined as a dissertation advancing an original point of view because of research, especially as a requirement for an academic degree. It can also be a hypothetical proposition, particularly one put forth without proof. The thesis represents the initial perspective of the writer on a particular topic, and keeps the writer focused on the research material needed to prove the thesis[CITATION Van12 \p 26 \t \l 1033].

2. Context

Context is defined as the set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation or event. It is the circumstances in which an event occurs, or the setting in which an event occurs. It is the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs. Context is also the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning. Context is the general situation in which something happens, which helps to explain that event. According to Van Rys, the research context refers to the conditions under which a writer performs research and writing[CITATION Van12 \p 7 \t \l 1033].

3. Strategy

Strategy is an elaborate and systematic plan of action to accomplish a task, goal, or objective. The definition of strategy is also a science and art of using all available tools to execute a plan effectively as possible. It is the science and art as applied to the overall planning and carrying out of an operation. Strategy is a plan of action resulting from intentional planning; intended to accomplish a specific goal. It is the art or skill of using stratagems in endeavors. As it relates to research writing, various strategies are recommended depending upon the form of the research paper, i.e. a personal research paper should use a strategy that focuses on primary research, or an argumentative research paper relies on secondary research, or an analytical research paper starts with primary research and uses secondary research for support[CITATION Van12 \p 42 \t \l 1033].

4. Research Question

A research question is a clear, focused, concise, complex and arguable question around which you center your research. The writer should ask a question about an issue that he or she is genuinely curious about. Research questions are important to the process because they help writers to focus their research by providing a path through the research and writing process. The specificity of a well-developed research question helps writers avoid the “all-about” paper and work toward supporting a specific, arguable thesis. With regard to research writing, research questions allow the writer to make their topic clearer because they help to direct the writer to meaningful information and ideas about the topic[CITATION Van12 \p 25 \t \l 1033].

5. Keywords

Keywords are the words that represent the main feature or idea of something. A keyword is a significant or descriptive word. It is often a word used as a reference point for finding other words or information in a particular document. Keywords are also defined as significant words or phrase used to describe the contents of a document. With respect to research writing, key words are terms that call for informing, analyzing, and persuading that further influence the writer to focus during the research project[CITATION Van12 \p 16 \t \l 1033].

References

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