

Research and writing are two words that synonymously flow together but are seen as two separate facets in the writing process. In order for learners to be effective in the writing process, there has to be adequate and sufficient information on the topic of choice. Research is the foundational essence of writing and without it the learner is doomed to produce a lackadaisical, ineffective and a paper of no substance. When conducting research learners will have to evaluate and explore a conglomerate of written materials pertaining to the topic of the learner. Here is where prudence and caution must be applied.

For learners, there will be a plethora of journals and other scholarly materials discovered, but the question that must be posed is are all the articles applicable to the thesis, hypothesis or conclusion learners are seeking to answer, prove or possibly disprove. Using journals and other scholarly periodicals are of great benefit to learners prior to writing the academic paper. When using journals and other scholarly periodicals, it is of great benefit to take great notes; not just good notes. Vyhmeister and Robertson noted "content notes are taken to remember what we read from those sources we have already identified as the most helpful; they must be complete and painstakingly accurate<sup>1</sup>."

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<sup>1</sup> Nanacy J. Vyhmeister and Terry Robertson (*Your Guide to Writing quality Research papers For Students of Religion and Theology, 2014*), 155

Journals and other scholarly periodicals are of great use to the learner. In order for the use to be effective, learners must be critical with the plethora of items that will be discovered. Learners must also take great notes to assist in remembering those journals and scholarly periodicals that were found to be useful and accurate.