Tips and Tricks for Writing that Research Paper
Monday, March 31, 2014
Presenter – Jan Stallard
Kaplan University Writing Center

To view the recorded workshop, click this link:
http://khe2.adobeconnect.com/p4xahuakr3l/
Agenda:
Be ready to write.
Use the writing process.
Use research language.
Check your work.
Ready to Write

Identified your problem
Working thesis or research question
Found or done your research
Read your research
Took notes on your research
Outline, brainstorm, draft
Writing is a process. We have discussed this in the Research Writing II workshop. Let's review it quickly. When we write, we must go through a process that enables us to get our ideas out on paper, and to rethink and revise our work until it clearly communicates our intent. The writing process is not always linear. It is often recursive, meaning we sometimes have to go back and repeat certain steps as our ideas form. If you feel like you are going backwards or starting over, you are not alone. All writers must think, write, and revise their work.
Research writing is a specific type of writing that involves combining the ideas of others with our own ideas and research. This is a form of academic writing. It is different than telling personal stories. Research writing has a very specific purpose.
What research writing is not

- Pure opinion
- A personal editorial
- Gathering of facts and pasting them in with no clear connection
Two Types of Research Writing

- Primary Research
- Secondary Research

Two types of research in College Writing
Primary Research and Secondary Research
The Challenge of Research Writing

- Combining your ideas with the ideas of others
- Conducting Research
- Using the appropriate language
- Citation
The Structure of the Paper
Introduction – contains the purpose and the thesis
The Body will contain ideas that explain
What others say
Who disagrees
Why these ideas matter
The Structure of the Project (especially large research projects).

Introduction
Review of Literature (Explains what others say on the topic)
Methods (Explains how the research was performed)
Results (What were the results and findings of the research?)
Research Writing Process

This is similar to the writing process, but you will notice how research and planning is a specific part of the process.

Idea
Research & Plan
Notes
Draft
Rewrite
Write and Edit
The Language of Research Writing

Clear  Concise  Formal

I would like to talk today about how we use paper.

American consumption of paper is quickly depleting the supply of timber in the U.S.A.

How you present your information matters.

The second example here is more formal and more appropriate for most research writing.

1) I would like to talk today about how we use paper.

2) American consumption of paper is quickly depleting the supply of timber in the U.S.A.

How you present your information matters because it speaks to your credibility as a writer and a researcher.
The Language of Research Writing

Introduction
- Explains your purpose and gives background
  (Tells you reader what she is doing here.)
- Clear, concise, formal writing

Language
- Many scientists have recently discovered that X's work has two flaws. His work indicated that X was helpful because of X. However, recent research suggests X. This causes the average person three main problems: X, X, and X.
The Language of Research Writing

Introduction - Language

Conventional wisdom suggests X. Many people participate in X. However, evidence suggests X.

Many scientists (Smith, 2010; Roberts, 2012, Lime, 2010), now believe X. This recent discovery has caused many problems for X. This research project will study the effects of X on X.
The Language of Research Writing

Body of the paper

• Explains the importance of the issue
• What others say (researchers)
• What you say
• Provides supporting evidence
The Language of Research Writing

Opposing Views
Agreeing or disagreeing with what others say

- Although X says . . . X disagrees with that because . . .
- X disagrees saying, “. . .” (citation).
The Language of Research Writing

Transitions (however, although, therefore, as a result)
Pointing Words (this, that, these, those)
Repeat key words

1. People need to understand that this is important. However, others researchers disagree. They say . . .

2. People need to understand planting trees is important. While it may be easy to disagree that planting one tree does not matter, arborists and other scientists insist every tree matters.
The Language of Research Writing

Introducing Quotes
1. X stated, “. . .”
2. According to X, “. . .”
3. X disagreed with X when she said, “. . .”

Explaining Quotes
1. With these words, X is saying . . .
2. The main point of X’s argument is . . .
3. X insists . . .

You need to tie all of the ideas together
Name those who disagree with you.

1. X disagrees with this idea saying . . . However, X does not consider . . .
2. Although I agree with part of X’s point, I do not agree that . . .
3. X is mistaken in her research because she overlooked . . .

Doing this actually helps your credibility because it shows you have looked at the problem for all sides.
Conclusion
Why does this matter?
What are your findings?
What is the need for further research or action?

Language
• Although X may seem unimportant, it is crucial to understand that X.
• This is important to X because . . .
• These findings suggest . . .

Although X may seem unimportant, it is crucial to understand that X.
This is important to X because . . .
These findings suggest . . .
Review

- Be ready to write.
- Utilize the process.
- Connect your ideas (sentence, paragraph, paper).
- Use the language of research.
- Check your work . . . Check you work again!

Review
Be ready to write.
Utilize the process.
Connect your ideas (sentence, paragraph, paper).
Use the language of research.
Check your work . . . Check you work again
Two Helpful Tutorials

• APA Demystified in 5 Minutes (video tutorial)
• Common Citations in APA (comprehensive tutorial)
The best time to do a paper review in the Kaplan University Writing Center is after you have written your first draft. When you come to us early, we can help you the most by helping you with the structure of your paper. Many students send papers at the last minute because they want us to simply proofread their paper. However, KUWC writing tutors do not simply proofread the paper for you; we want to help you learn to write and proofread your own papers. Since you can come to the Writing Center 6 times a term, you can submit a first draft, then submit a later draft if you need further help on an assignment.

If you need help before you write the first draft, you can use live tutoring. During live tutoring, you can ask questions and brainstorm with a tutor. Live tutors can help you with other stages in the paper writing process as well. Come visit us. We can be found under the My Studies tab, then under Academic Support Center.
On the main **Academic Support Center** page, you will see the **Writing Center** links. These include Live Tutoring, Paper Review Service, the Writing Reference Library, Citation Guidelines, **Workshops**, English Language Learner, and Fundamental writing help. Notice, you can access the Kaplan Guide to Successful Writing on the right hand side in both print and audio form. Come visit us.
Workshops are recorded and recording links, with an accompanying handout, are posted on the Writing Center Workshops page 2 business days after a workshop has taken place.

- For information about Writing Center workshops, contact Melody Pickle mpickle@kaplan.edu
- Writing Center Contact kuwc@kaplan.edu
- Library Contact library@kaplan.edu