

ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Basic Elements of Analytical Research and Writing

Overview

- Project types
- Choosing a topic
- Identifying audience
- Conducting research
- Organization and format

Project Types

Argumentative:

- Clearly defined topic.
- Clearly defined thesis statement (stance).
- Goal: Persuade audience.
 - Example: Martha Schwartz is the most influential contemporary American landscape architect.
- Must support thesis with proof (data) and sound reasoning.



Project Types

Analytical:

- Clearly defined topic.
- Research question rather than thesis.
- Goal: Explore and evaluate topic.
 - Example: Given Martha Schwartz's influence on contemporary American landscape architecture, what are her major design inspirations and precedents?
- Must conduct thorough research and explore various sources to try to answer question.



Choosing a Topic

- Consider assignment requirements.
- Consider due dates, your schedule, priorities.
- Determine interest - choose a topic that fulfills assignment requirements and that interests you.
- Conduct preliminary research

Identifying Audience

Important questions:

- Who are they?
- What do they need, expect?
- Where will they be reading?
- When will they be reading?
- Why will they be reading?
- How will they be reading?

Identifying Audience

Primary audience:

Gatekeepers, instructor, faculty, etc.



Secondary audience:

Peers, colleagues, coworkers, etc.



Shadow audience:

Others who may read the paper:
blog readers, readers of online
magazines, etc.

Conducting Research

Preliminary research:

- To save time, use your library's website to find related sources.
- Some sources may have an electronic copy available, while other sources you will have find on the shelves and check out

Search All

Books & Media

Course Reserves

Articles

Website

Find Articles, Books, Media, Journals, Collections & Archives

Search

Examples: Neil Armstrong, Engineering, etc.

Browse: [Catalogs](#) [Databases](#) [Online Journals](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Conducting Research

Other sources:

Secondary sources:

1. Materials provided by your instructor
2. Professional publications
3. Credible Websites

2

1

2

3

Search All

Books & Media

Course Reserves

Articles

Website

Find Articles, Books, Media, Journals, Collections & Archives

Search

Examples: Neil Armstrong, Engineering, etc.

Browse: [Catalogs](#) [Databases](#) [Online Journals](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Conducting Research

Other sources:

Primary sources:

- Interviews
- Observations
- Experiments

Use the Purdue OWL to help you conduct primary research:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/559/1/>

Paper Organization: Introduction

How to write the introduction:

What is the purpose of the paper? Argumentative or Analytical?

- For argumentative—What is your thesis?
- For analytical—What are your research questions?

Audience (optional)—Is the audience familiar with topic, terms?

Research methods—How did you find your information?

Findings and conclusions.

Forecast organization of document.

Paper Organization: Body, Ref., Appendix

Basic organization:

- Section 1—Introduce and explain topic.
- Section 2—Discuss history, background; set the context.
- Section 3—Discuss research methods.
- Section 4—Discuss research findings.
- Section 5—Conclusions
- Works Cited/Reference List
- Appendix

THANK YOU

Purdue University On-Campus Writing Lab
Krach Leadership Center (2nd Floor)

Web: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Phone: (765) 494-3723

Email: owl@owl.english.purdue.edu

