

The Right Way to Write:

Research Papers and Essays

With special Help from Harry Potter Characters

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Sponsored by

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Harcum College

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Essay Structure

- Essays have many purposes, but the structure is always the same.
- Reasons to Write:
Narrative, Argument,
Response Journal,
Expository,
Persuasive.



What Types
have you had
to write?

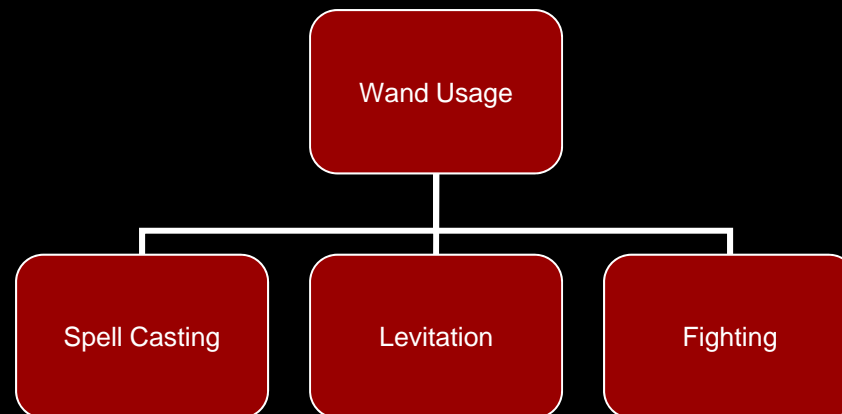
Choosing a Topic (hardest part)

- Essay Prompt Topic (no choice)
- Something you are passionate about
- Something that you can find information on
- It fulfills the assignment requirements
- You are comfortable in discussing the topic in class (in case of oral presentations)

Prewriting: Ways to Generate

Personally, I like to generate all of the negative aspects of a topic.

- Venn Diagram
- Journaling
- Mapping
- Brainstorming



Your Turn: Narrow Down Abortion

- What do you know about it?
- What is your opinion of it?
- Who is your audience, and what will they think about your opinion?



Need Help?



- Will I need to provide background info?
- What is my purpose (to persuade, to argue, to inform)?
- What do I want to say?
- Do I need research to back me up?
- What graphic organizer would help me?

Drafting

- Do you stick with one main idea?
- Which ideas in my first draft do I need to further explore?
- How should I order my ideas?
- Can my reader find my thesis statement?

Fred, I'll brain storm, and you write the final!

No, George I'll draft, and you write.



Wait! What is a Thesis Statement?



I always
have to do
everything!

- The thesis statement is the main focus of the entire essay.
- It usually appears in the last line of the first paragraph.
- Every topic sentence (first sentence in each paragraph), must connect to thesis.

Which is the best thesis statement?

_Harry Potter is an excellent wizard.

Harry Potter must use his wizardry to fight the battle of Hogwarts Castle.

Harry Potter is about good vs. evil.



Revising

- Revising is not correcting the errors.
- You need to take a fresh look at your essay.
- Focus on parts you need to add more information, or rewrite to make more clear.
- Make sure your research is included correctly.

It's a lot of work, but I'd rather not Moan About It.



Information for Documentation

- Author's Name
- Title of Article, even one from the Internet
- Date of Publication
- City of Publication
- Web address to .com
- Reliable Source
- No Wikipedia!!



MLA Documentation

In-text Citations

- Put in-text citations in after you quote, summarize, or paraphrase the material.
- Always introduce each quote. Dr. Sarah writes that “.....”.
- “If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals” (Rowling 124).

Works Cited Page

- Works Cited must go at the end of an essay or research paper to document where you found the information.
- The Author's last name always goes first, and all names go in alphabetical order.
- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. New York: Scholastic, 2001. Print.

APA Documentation

In-Text Citations

- APA differs from MLA because the date of publication goes in the citation.
- “If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals” (Rowling, 2001, p. 124).

References Page

- APA calls the last page a “reference page” instead of “works cited”.
- The Author's name goes first, and in alphabetical order, followed by the date of publication.
- Rowling, J.K. (2001). *Harry Potter and the goblet of fire*. New York: Scholastic.

Paraphrasing and Quoting



Only you
can prevent
plagiarism.

- Quoting is using the author's last words.
- Paraphrasing is putting the author's words into your own words.—You must document.

Tips for Revision

- Print out a hard copy, so you can make notes as you go.
- Ask a friend or classmate to peer review your work.
- Keep all of your research notes nearby, so you can refer back to them.
- Use a template like the one at the back of your hand-out to organize your information.
- Contact the ESC if you need a tutoring session.



Proofreading

- Proofreading is checking for grammatical errors, typos, and sentence structure
- Always use spell check
- Reread your document out loud
- Gram Check on Word is not always right.



Works Cited

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. New York: Scholastic, 2001

“Harry Potter”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo. 1 April 2010

www.theleakycauldron.org/search

“Hermione Granger”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo 1 April 2010

“Dumbledore”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo. 1 April 2010

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“Draco”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo. 1 April 2010

“Potter Group Shot”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo. 1 April 2010

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“Cedric Diggory”. The Leaky Cauldron. Photo. 1 April 2010