



The Research Paper

I. Choose a topic

A. Test the topic

1. Is there enough to write about?
2. Is it open for discussion?

II. Research

A. Be critical when seeking outside sources

1. Look for URLs ending in .edu, .org, .gov.
2. Databases, like EBSCO are popular and can be utilized in most libraries
3. Books, magazines, and other print media should be considered as well

B. Once all outside sources have been gathered, read them thoroughly

III. Plagiarism

A. Document all sources even when paraphrasing

B. Use your own conclusions and analysis most of the time

IV. Draft a thesis statement

A. Should be derived after sources are gathered and read