

# Research Writing



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Writing and Language Resource Center

# Research Paper

## Is

A unique perspective on a chosen topic

New analysis of a topic that has been previously discussed by others

A result of critical thought and evaluation of sources

## Is NOT

A summary of the sources

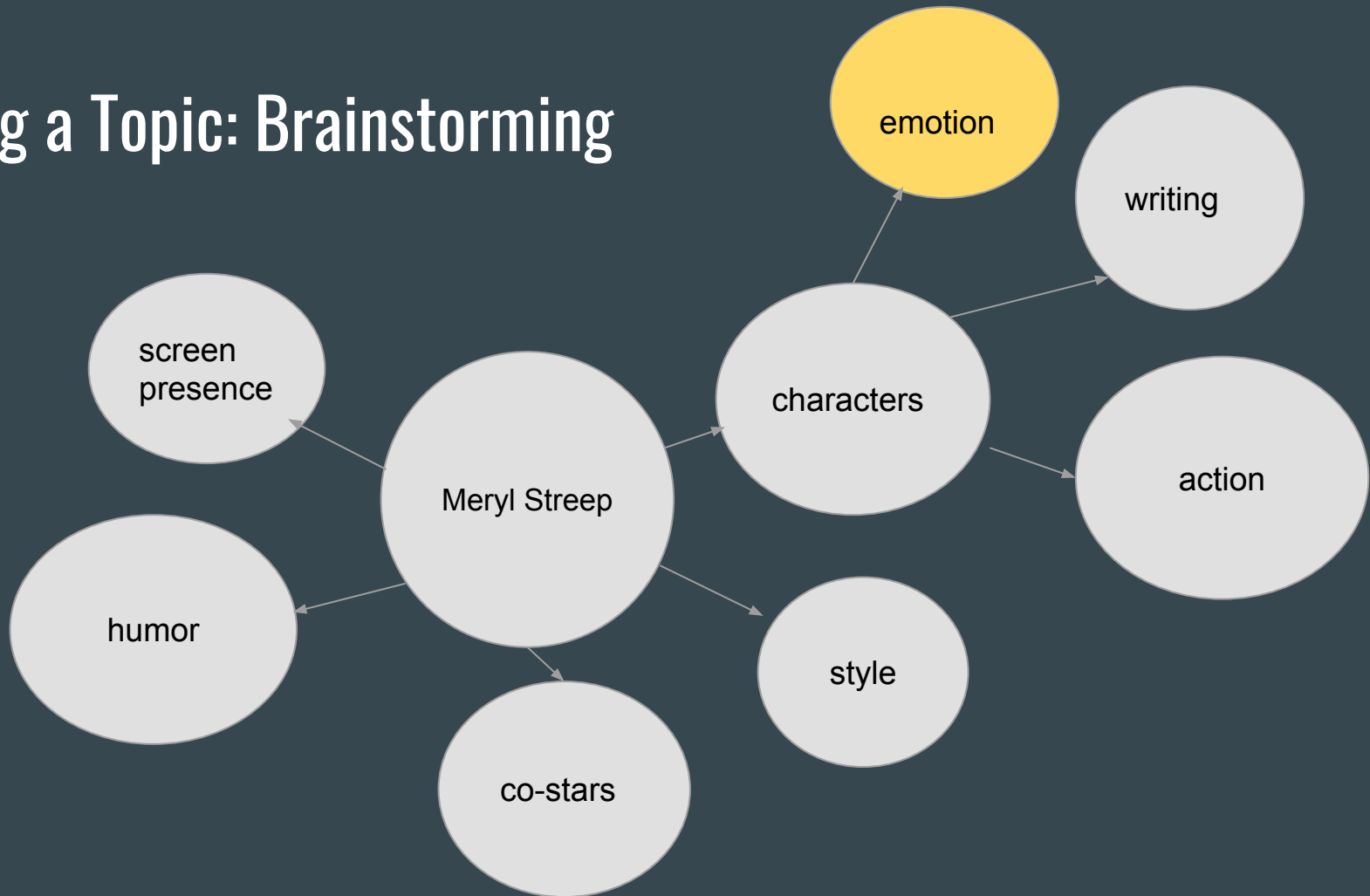
An opinion essay

Although it can be argumentative in nature

A story about how you personally relate to the topic

A book report

# Choosing a Topic: Brainstorming



# Finding Sources

Who is my audience?

film fanatics, actors, filmmakers, acting instructors, acting students

Where do they get information about this topic?

magazines, scholarly articles, current events/entertainment news

Which sources are legitimate?

Google Scholar, print magazines, newspaper articles, sources reviewed by other researchers

~~Wikipedia and personal blogs~~

# Using Sources

Make note of quotes while you are researching

Zotero: <https://www.zotero.org/>

Always quote technical language - don't paraphrase

Give the quote context

Where is it coming from?

Don't rely too heavily on one source

# Outlining

Purdue Sample Outline:

[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20081113013048\\_544.pdf](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20081113013048_544.pdf)

Sample Outline:

<http://www.crestmont.edu/pdf/candidates-reserarch-papers.pdf>

# Thesis

Analytical thesis statement

The analysis of Meryl Streep's performances in her films demonstrates the emotional connection she makes with her characters.

Argumentative thesis statement

Meryl Streep establishes a strong emotional connection with her characters, and as a result, her audiences are drawn deeply into her performances.

# Topic Sentences and Supporting Details

Topic and controlling idea

In her role as *Jane Adler* in *It's Complicated*, *Streep* strongly embraces the emotions associated with *rebellion*.

Guide the supporting details of the paragraph

*Specific examples of scenes and moments where this emotion is conveyed*

Discuss. Don't summarize

Your readers can read the quote



# Academic Honesty & MLA



The Basics

# What is academic dishonesty?

- Copying words from another source
  - online, books, magazines, etc.
- Taking ideas from another source
- Getting outside help from a friend
- Google translating

# Citation

When you use words or ideas from another source in your essay or presentation, you have to write where you got it from.

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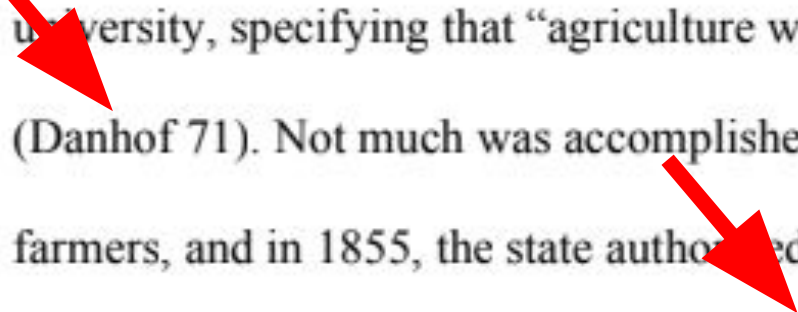
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# When do we use a citation?

- Words presented in another source
- Ideas presented in another source
- Information gained through interviews
- When you reprint/reuse visuals

# When do we NOT use a citation?

- Your own lived experiences
- Your own thoughts and observations
- Your own artwork and visuals
- Common knowledge (myths, observations, historical events)
- Generally accepted facts.
  - Pollution is bad for the environment.



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# Sample Resources

1. “Gender Role Behaviors and Attitudes” by Holly Devor
2. Purdue OWL website <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

# Quoting

...

# Devor Article: Print Source from an Anthology

When author IS introduced before the quote

Devor states, “Many activities and modes of expression are recognized by most members of society as feminine” (485).

- Quotes for exact words taken from source
- (page #)
- Period after parentheses

# Devor Article: Print Source from an Anthology

When author is not introduced before the quote:

“Many activities and modes of expression are recognized by most members of society as feminine” (Devor 485).

- Quotes for exact words taken from source
- (last name page #)
- Period after parentheses

# Purdue OWL: Website with No Author

“The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University houses writing resources and instructional material, and we provide these as a free service of the Writing Lab at Purdue” (*Purdue OWL*).

- Quotation marks for exact texts
- First item that appears in Works Cited
- No page or paragraph number necessary
- Period after the parentheses



# Paraphrasing/Summarizing

...

# Paraphrasing vs. Summarizing

## Summary

- shorter than the original
- contains only the main idea
- expressed in different words than the original

## Paraphrase

- about the same length as the original
- complete restatement of an author's ideas and key supporting details
- expressed in different words than the original

# Example Summary

“Multiple Intelligences and Emotional Intelligence” by David and Myra Sadker.

Original:

The theory of multiple intelligences goes a long way in explaining why the quality of an individual's performance may vary greatly in different activities, rather than reflect a single standard of performance as indicated by an IQ score. Gardner also points out that what is considered intelligence may differ, depending on cultural values. Thus, in the Pacific Islands, intelligence is the ability to navigate among the islands. For many Muslims, the ability to memorize the Koran is a mark of intelligence. Intelligence in Balinese social life is demonstrated by physical grace.

SUMMARY:

Multiple intelligences can help us understand why different cultures have different definitions of intelligence (Sadker and Sadker 79).

# Example Paraphrase

“Where Do We Stand” by Lisa Davis.

EXAMPLE:

No matter whether a society operates at arm’s length or cheek-to-jowl, the women look at each other more and stand a bit closer than do the men.

PARAPHRASE:

Regardless of a country’s language of space, compared to men, women tend to make more eye contact and be comfortable standing close to each other (Davis 21).

# Steps to Paraphrasing

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
4. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.

# Works Cited Page

...

# Works Cited: Journal Article from Print Source

Devor, Holly. "Gender Role Behaviors and Attitudes." *Signs of Life in the U.S.A.*, edited by Sonia Maasik and Jack Solomon, Bedford-St. Martin's, 2015, pp. 504 – 510.

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Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Article Title." Book Article Is Published In, edited by book editor's name, Publishing Company Name, Year Published, pp. page numbers of article.



# Works Cited: Website with No Author

*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

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*Name of Site.* Sponsor/Publisher, Publication Date, URL. Accessed Date of Access.

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- Last page in essay
- Separate page from essay
- Alphabetical order
- Times New Roman 12
- Double spaced
- Lines below the first line in each entry = indented.

# Safe Practices: Researching and Note-taking

- Write a “Q” next to words you would like to quote.
- Categorize your notes into “S” for Sources and “Me” for your own ideas.
- SAVE YOUR SOURCES
- [www.zotero.com](http://www.zotero.com)
- [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

# Safe Practices: Citing Sources

- MLA 8
- In-text citations and works cited page must follow exact format
- Use Purdue Owl instructions and examples to check your work.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

# Other types of sources?

Visit the MLA guide at Purdue OWL:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>