Research-Focused Writing and Composition

This is a suggested sequence of lessons to guide students in creating a research paper. This guideline for conducting research and reporting findings can be applied to any student-chosen research topic. Appropriate final products would include action research, case studies, and/or capstone projects.

This guide is broken into six weeks. These six topics can be spaced across a longer length term as decided by the instructor. For each weekly topic, suggested combinations of Tutorials and Quick Guides can be found in the Learn section on Academic Writer, and coordinated activities can be found within the Reference Center and Writing Center. Individual assignment links can be found in your LTI Link Package from your Customer Success Specialist.

The goal of this curriculum is that students will create a written research paper using APA Style for formatting, cited sources, and presentation of ideas and findings.

Pedagogy and Purpose

Collegiate programs require students to complete different styles of research and report their findings to show their mastery of essential concepts and ability to positively impact their field of study. Higher-level degrees in education include mandatory research and/or case study projects to empower students to dig deep into solving problems within the education field (Osipova & Lao, 2022). Many medical degree programs, including Doctor of Nursing Practitioner (DNP) programs, require capstone projects for students to demonstrate synthesis of current research and application to the field (Anderson et al., 2014; Deluliis & Bednarski, 2020). Psychology programs also incorporate research projects into their students’ capstone semesters when completing degrees (Dunn et al., 2010). With these types of projects in mind, this curriculum was designed to support students in the process of crafting scholarly writing.
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| **Week 1: Introduction to Research** | Students will determine what types of writing are common for semester-long research projects and analyze how building research questions drives the writing process. | **Tutorial**: Research Questions and Hypotheses  
**Tutorial**: Prewriting  
**Quick Guide (QG)**: Types of Student Papers | Quiz: Research Questions and Hypotheses  
16 questions | Apply in the Writing Center: Students create a new Basic Paper to complete the “Develop My Research Idea” in the Research Lab Book. This paper will become their finished research paper. All subsequent writing steps will happen in this document. |
| **Week 2: Foundations of Research** | Students will explore what methods are used in research and how variables can impact findings. | **Tutorial**: Research Strategies and Variables  
**Tutorial**: The Sample  
**QG**: Participation in Research | Quiz: Research Strategies and Variables  
14 questions | Apply in the Writing Center: Continue to complete the “Plan and Track My Research” component of the Research Lab Book within their started paper. |
| **Week 3: Finding Sources of Seminal Research** | Students will learn how to find reliable sources to support their research development and methodology. | **Tutorial**: How to Find Reliable Sources  
**Tutorial**: How to Avoid Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism  
**QG**: Citing References in Text | Quiz: How to Find Reliable Sources  
15 questions | Apply in the Reference Center: Students will create a list of references to later use within their paper. Students should utilize the Notes feature to add relevant information for an annotated bibliography, section of the research paper, or other needed tools and reminders. |
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| Week 4: Ethical Standards in Research and Writing | Students will utilize ethical standards when planning, completing, and writing about their research. | **Tutorial**: Ethical Standards in Research and Writing  
**QG**: Introduction  
**QG**: Method | **Quiz**: Ethical Standard in Research and Writing  
12 questions | **Apply in the Writing Center**: Students will craft the introduction and method sections of their paper. A separate literature review section may be considered (covered in QG: Introduction). |
| Week 5: Objective Language and Summarizing Results | Students will write using objective language that shows an understanding of concepts found in research. | **Tutorial**: How to Reduce Bias in Language  
**QG**: Results and Findings  
**QG**: Summarizing | **Quiz**: How to Reduce Bias in Language  
13 Questions | **Apply in the Writing Center**: Students will continue to describe the process of their research in the method section. Students will create a new results and findings section to objectively describe the results of their research. |
| Week 6: Reporting Findings | Students will apply their learning through the research process by analyzing their collected data and discussing the implications of that data. | **Tutorial**: Analyzing Data and Drawing Conclusions  
**QG**: Discussion | **Quiz**: Analyzing Data and Drawing Conclusions  
10 questions | **Apply in the Writing Center**: Students will analyze the story told by the data collected during their research. Students will use the discussion section to draw conclusions. |
References


