

Writing The I-Search Paper *

*Note: A Standard Research Paper + Reflection Page may be substituted

Cover

Your cover must contain your topic, your name, your section, your teacher's name, and the date you are submitting your paper. The title of your I-Search paper can be centered towards the top of the page. The remainder of the information can be centered at the bottom of the page.

Introduction

Somewhere in your introduction you should state your essential question, the issue you are addressing, and what you already knew about your topic before you began your search. You may write a little story for your introduction or you can simply state the facts. You must state what you hope your I-Search paper will accomplish.

Research

In this section you will write about your research process. You will write about the sub-questions you needed answered, why those questions were so important, and the answers you have found. This information is the data you collected from books, journals, newspapers, visits to different places, observations, experiments, the computer, and conversations with friends and community members. One expert interview must be conducted and written up in narrative form. The expert interview may be the final paragraph of your research section.

Remember that the I-Search paper is a narrative. You are the narrator and you are telling the story of your search. You must document any information that does not come from your own knowledge or observation. Simply, in parentheses, write the author's last name and the page number. Your bibliography will be more detailed.

Reflection / Conclusion

In this section you will reflect on the service learning in which you participated and state what you have learned and how you have grown personally through your experiences. You will state the answer to your essential question and provide your reasons for your answer. This is your opportunity to reflect on every aspect of your research and to sum up what you have learned.

Bibliography

On this page you will alphabetically list in the proper form all sources used. Remember that the author's last name goes first whether you used a book, a magazine article, an article you found on the computer, or any other source.