

RESEARCH PAPER SURVIVAL GUIDE



College of the
Siskiyous
WRITING LAB

INTRODUCTION: Writing a research paper is a creative learning experience that requires time and effort, but the end product is well worth it. This simple guide can assist you in avoiding the most common pitfalls in writing a research paper, but as a student hoping to do well you should work closely with your instructor and the COS Writing Lab.

Writing a college-level research paper does not have to be a confusing process. Unfortunately, many students do not do the necessary planning, and their lack of organization results in wasted time and an unsatisfactory grade. Follow the steps in this Survival Guide, and you will be on your way to a successful paper. Each step is designed to help you produce a successful paper.

STEP NUMBER ONE: Know what your instructor wants

STEP NUMBER TWO: Choose a topic for your paper

STEP NUMBER THREE: Write a preliminary thesis statement

STEP NUMBER FOUR: Write a rough outline

STEP NUMBER FIVE: Gather your material

STEP NUMBER SIX: Write and edit your paper