Econo-Write

Work Smarter, not Harder

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Old Hat Recommendations....

Read and re-read

Brainstorm

Outline, draft, revise
Develop an agenda for your reading

Keeps you focused and makes efficient use of time
Make sure you understand the assignment:

Analytical?
Breaks down an issue or idea and evaluates them

Expository?
Explains an issue

Argumentative?
Makes a claim and justifies with evidence

Look for KEY words
In your instructions

Adapted from OWL at Purdue University, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts
Asking Questions

Purpose of the assignment?
Audience?
Instructor?
Peers?
Public?

Bring your subject into focus
Efficient Research
Flesh out ideas
- Use comparison: 3 types
  - similarities
    - define how 2 ideas are the same
      - Example: Addiction:
        Compare similarities of alcoholism and gambling behaviors
Comparison (cont)

- differences
  - identify differences related to topic
    - attitudes about addiction 20 years ago & today
    - attitude differences culture to culture
Comparison (cont.)

- **extent of effectiveness**
  - how something is better or worse than something else
    - Ex. More treatment facilities* and more use of evidence-based interventions* in Minnesota than Finland

* don’t just say “better options,” give details
Flesh out

- Explore relationship types
  - cause/ effects
  - antecedent/ consequences
  - contradictions/ incompatible statements
  - controversies

- highlight unexpected results
Despite better treatment options in Minnesota, Finnish studies show higher percentages of alcoholics accessing care.

Your further research explores the question or problem raised in your reading, and takes your paper beyond reporting.
Flesh out

- Examine **Circumstances/ Context**
- What’s the **backstory**?
  - Finland has socialized medicine
  - Minnesota programs are costly
  - Many alcoholics don’t have health insurance
  - HMOs limit in-patient rehab to 4 weeks
Make **connections clear** for the reader. Developing an better understanding of challenges faced by single-parent households is critical.

- Critical to who? Critical to what?
- Be explicit in making connections for the reader

... because this demographic showed a 200% increase in the last decade. Furthermore, single-mothers are..

Add examples to **clarify**

- In this case, a confidence interval of .60 would mean that women were 40% less likely...
Be a Journalist!

Who?
Participants? Affected? Primary Actors? Secondary Actors?

What?

Where?
Place? Problem Source? Most Visible?

When?
Issue (Past? Present? Future?) Problem Developed? History?

Why?
Problem Arise? Topic or Problem? Developed?

How?
Significant? Addressed? Affect Participants? Resolved?
A Journalist’s Approach

Who?
Students punished the most within one school district: Black children

What?
Racial disparity in discipline: Black children punished at twice the rate of White children ¼ of the student body

When?
Late 1990s with US complaint Persisted 5-years data

Why?
Bias? Black children misbehave more?

How?
Academic effects Social failure Stereotyping Training needed

Where?
Divisionwide Elementary level Classroom
Keep in Mind...
Rabbit or Tortoise?

Allow **time** for ideas to grow, percolate
Chill out
**Reconsider** your position
Sample Assignment

Family & Individual Development:

Topic: 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Families

Limit: 6-8 page paper

Where to start:
How much work is needed?
What you know about topic already
What do you want to say about topic?

Need to redefine, who is a “family?”
Redefining Your Subject

FAMILY?

FAMILY?
Blended families have special needs that our social systems don’t accommodate.

School systems haven’t adjusted for blended families.

School policies prohibit discussing child’s performance with step-parent.
21st Century Families

Are Public School Policies a Barrier for Blended Families?
EVALUATE *before* you read

Narrow *quantity* of research information

Choose *quality* information

Sift and choose *wisely*
Number 1 source NOT to use
Finding Sources

Start with ISI: Web of Knowledge Database
Finding Sources

3 search fields:
• Source (author)
• Subject (keywords)
• Citation index (access by cited author)
Be a **discriminating reader**

- Determine from **title** and **abstract** if the article is applicable to your topic

Abstract should **clearly state** thesis, methods, results, conclusions

- If abstract is poorly written, chances are the rest is a mess; it might be wise to **MOVE ON**
Skim sections for pertinent information

Try to answer your specific questions as you read

How will this information fit into your paper?
I want to be a sponge and absorb every bit of the wealth of knowledge that I encounter.
Active Reading

- Respond intellectually as you read
  - Identify
  - Evaluate
  - React,
  - Question,
  - Challenge

- Active reading fully engages the mind

  = Better recall of information
What was **objective** of study?
What **hypothesis** was tested?
Were there compelling **background** elements that justified study?
What were the most **important findings**?
  - **Why** are they important? Consistent? New?
  - How did results and discussion sections **differ**?
Were the conclusions consistent with results/findings?
- Any new sources brought to discussion?
- What questions emerge from study?
- What implications arise from study?
- Consistent with others in the field?
Reading to Write

- **Limit note** taking to info that answers research questions
  - or provides examples

- **Brief notes** = **useful notes**
  - **Memory prompts** not long paraphrases
  - **Keywords**
  - **Wide margins** for **your** reactions,
  - challenges, questions
  - - These are the **seeds** of a good paper
Write your paper as you read

- Take advantage of “ah-ha” moments
  If a comparison becomes apparent, pause reading and write those sentences

Go Beyond Reporting in your notes by
- Noting gaps in the argument
- Evaluate argument’s validity
- Consider the limitations?
- What things did author fail to consider?
Added Value Notes

- Weigh the importance of the study
  - Original research or debate of theory?
  - What was the impact on society?
  - What are the implications of findings?
  - Does this research create new knowledge? Fill a gap?

- Record your responses to what you read:
  - questions
  - comparisons
  - connections
  - contradictions
  - concerns

Ideas that are prompted by your reading
## CBT Addiction Intervention

### Notes

**Thesis**
- G.Tpy is eff. for inc
- Empathy w/ cvt.
- Sex offenders “p.21”

**Method**
- Quasi-exp
- Cross-sec w 6m flw-u
- Intvw – qual. Code for 7 emp measures

**Findings**
- Emp.inc in 36% but
  - 33% of non-T
  - No diff at 6m pt

**Theoretical Framework**
- grounded theory

### Your response

Cf. to Hough’s theory that empathy is not learned skill

- group therapy format poor choice - neg. %

Contradicts Yee’s study that showed sustained effect of empathy training using invid. thpy

Serious meth. limits but Findings are credible Cron a

Watkins’ (2006) lack of positive outcomes appears to support Hough’s argument that empathy is not a learned skill but rather is a...

- Biculturalism acts as a protective factor for immigrant youth.
- Longitudinal study; interviews with parent-adolescent dyad at 6-month intervals for 3 years.
- Quantitative analysis with OLS.
- Hypothesis supported; immigrant disruptions of family dynamics; greater adaptation = more aggressive behavior; risk of mental health problems.

Questions:
- Why not HLM? What about nested data?
- Groundbreaking; contra norm for homogenizing family work force = \( \Delta \) family system.
Outline – no one best method

- Traditional, Step Down format
  - Very linear, logical, organized
    1. Main idea
      A. Subpoint
        a. support
        b. support

- Cluster, Spider, or Concept Map
  - Great for visual thinkers
  - Easy to represent relationships, connections
Spider or Cluster

Main idea

Subpoint 1

Subpoint 2

support
Branch Diagram
Your final paper needs to be linear, but that doesn’t mean you have to get there by a straight line.
First Draft

- Fast & Dirty - just do it
- Don’t revise while drafting
- Idea is to get your ideas on paper
- Adding flesh to the outline bones
Outline 1st Draft to identify

- Holes in argument
- Wobbly support
- Too many supports in one area
- Need for more details, examples
- Flow, organization
- Guide further reading
  - Very specific key words to find more sources
Second Draft

- **Fill in** the holes
  - add details, add supports
- Concentrate on **transitions** between ideas; between paragraphs
  - is the **organization** logical?
  - does it **make sense** to someone unfamiliar with my research
Second Draft

- **Revising and polishing**
  - Check for organization of thought and argument
  - Check for flow and transitions
  - Check for clarity of ideas
  - Check for APA style details
PRUFREED UR WERK!!
Thank You for Your Attention!