

Writing a Research Paper: The Benefits and the Processes

Writing a research paper is one of the hardest assignments for students.

Many students may have felt they could not finish this assignment by the due date.

Those students might write a research essay just a few days before the due date or the night before the due date. Can they write a good essay for such a short time? No. Can they get any benefits from writing the essay in rush? No. If they go through the right processes of writing a research paper, they will get lots of benefits, not only A+. Then, they need to know what kinds of benefits they can gain, and what the right processes are.

Writing a good research essay brings you a lot of benefits. First of all, you can get new knowledge through your research. If you research on healthy foods, you will be more familiar with them, and you can keep your health. If you research on your favorite author, you will be able to enjoy the author's work much more than ever before. New knowledge encourages you to make your life better than before. Also, according to MasterPapers.com (<http://www.masterpapers.com/blog/essay-writing-tips/benefits-of-essay-writing/>), you can develop your critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, evaluation and accuracy. In addition, you can be a better reader, develop new ideas, learn how to use sources and learn about yourself through your research essay. These skills are helpful in your life. However, you can get these benefits only through the right processes of writing a research paper; planning, deciding a good topic, collecting information, organizing the idea and writing a draft. If you want to gain them, you need to know the right steps of creating the research essay.

Research Essay Process

Plan

Writing a research essay is the same as building a house. If you do not have a blue print, you are not able to build a house. The first step is creating a plan of your essay. This plan enables you to see what you should do next, and where you are now in the process. Also, it helps you to avoid procrastination. Procrastination is the enemy of writing a good essay (Ballenger, 2012, p. 5).

Decide a Topic

The topic is the core of a research essay. As for a house, the topic is like the foundation of the house. If the foundation is not stable, the house will not be able to be built. However, according to ValWriting.net (<http://valwriting.net/blog/research-papers/good-topics-for-research-paper>), about 70% of students feel this step is the most difficult; so many students do not like this step even though this is the most important part of research paper. Then, what is a good topic? A good topic must interest you, not be too big or too small, have enough information, and be researchable (Ballenger, 2012, p30). It is difficult to find a good topic, but even it takes a long time, you should not give up until you can find a good, interesting, and researchable topic. A good topic gives you high motivation and makes your essay way far excellent.

Collect Information

After you can get a good research topic, it is time to collect information as much as possible. You can find information through various sources such as the Internet, library, newspapers, magazines, interviews and TV. Ballenger states, "It is far

better to have more information than you can use because this allows you to understand your subject more deeply and focus your investigation narrowly.” (pp.53). However, after you get a lot of information, you should evaluate the information. According to Ballenger (2012), good information must be accurate, relevant and authoritative (pp. 53, 60). To check these features, you had better ask questions such as:

- Does the information have an author?
- Is there the date of when the information was written?
- Is it a primary source?
- Is it written objectively?
- Is the source stable?

Good materials are essential to build a good house, this is also true for writing a good research essay.

Organize the Idea

After you have got enough information, the next step is to combine the information and organize your ideas through writing an outline. An outline is like a framework of your research paper. This is same as the framework of a house; if there is no framework, you are not be able to build a house, or the house will surely crumble easily. Do not write your essay just after you get information. Before that, you should write an outline. Through this process, you can see what you have got and what you have learned till that time. Also, writing an outline enables you to review your idea of your research.

Write a Draft

Now, it is the time to write a draft of your research paper. At this time, you have to pay attention not to plagiarize. This is very serious and important because if you plagiarize someone's work, you will not be able to get any credit, or far worse, you might have to leave your school. You must know how to write citations and references accurately. Also, you need to consider whether the essay must be written in APA style or MLA style. These two styles are quite different, so you should check which style you are required to follow. A site, Purdue Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) gives you the idea of the difference of those two types of format, and tells you how to write references and citations correctly. Again, do not plagiarize other's work.

Conclusion

You can get so many benefits from your research essay. However, if you want to gain these benefits, you have to follow above steps. You do not need to worry about your essay just the day before the due date if you go through the right steps. If you ignore the process, you may not be able to get any benefits. This process is very important to write your research paper successfully, and get a lot of benefits for your life.

References

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