Making it Relevant:

A Report Outlining the Process for Writing the ENG4C Research Report

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**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to inform the students of ENG4C how to write a research report. Specifically, this report focuses on the steps involved in researching, organizing, writing and formatting a report based on researching a real-world issue found in one of the novels studied in the ENG4C course.

B**eginning Research**

Once you have chosen your topic, you will begin research. It’s important to stay focused and remember your audience and purpose. Not all the information you find on your topic will be relevant or helpful for your audience. When conducting research, consider the following:

1. Is this a reliable source?
2. Does this information answer one of my research questions? If not, should I create a new question?
3. Is this information relevant considering my audience and purpose?

**Outline of the Report**

You will create an outline for your report that indicates the headings and information you plan on including in your report. Heading will vary depending on the topic of the report but all reports should have a summary, and a section explaining how the issue was portrayed in your novel. See the sample outline below:

**Summary**: State purpose of report. Summarize the information provided

**Portrayal of Crystal Meth Use in *Crank***: Summarize the way crystal meth is portrayed in *Crank*. Evaluate how realistic it is based on my research.

**What is Crystal Meth**: Explain what the drug is and why it’s so dangerous

**Symptoms and Warning Signs**: Describe symptoms and warning signs of crystal meth use.

**How to Get Help**: Provide guidelines for getting help with an addiction either for yourself or for someone else. Make sure there are local resources provided.

**Writing Your Rough Draft**

Using this report as your template, write your rough draft. Don’t forget to cite your work as you go. You must cite five different articles in total, but that doesn’t mean you have to have a direct quotation from all of them. Whenever you use a piece of information that you didn’t come up with yourself (even if you’re not using the author’s exact words) you need to cite it using APA format. If you don’t cite your sources in the body of your report and in the References page, you might be accused of plagiarism (Stolley, K., Brizee, A., & Paiz, J. M., 2013). A good tool to help you with formatting your citations is Citation Machine (Warlick, 2010).

You must also include at least one piece of information in graphic form (e.g., a pie chart, bar graph, line graph, table, timeline, flow chart, diagram, etc.). The type of graphic you choose should be based on the type of information you want to convey:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type  of Graphic | Explanation | Example |
| Tables | Data organized into columns and rows (This is a table). |  |
| Charts  and  flow charts | Shows the relationships between elements. Flow charts indicate a sequence of steps. |  |
| Diagrams | Simple line drawings that represent an object. |  |
| Times lines | Show an order of events. |  |
| Pie chart/graph | Shows divisions, relationships, and parts of a whole. |  |
| Bar Graphs | Compares different amounts, quantities, or levels. |  |
| Line Graphs | Shows change over time. |  |

**Editing and Revising your Rough Draft**

You will need to have a peer edit your rough draft and then you will be responsible for revising it. In this stage of the writing process you will need to consider the following:

1. Does the content of the report do what it sets out to do? Is it helpful and informative?
2. Is the level of language appropriate? Do I have any spelling or grammatical errors?
3. Have I cited my sources? Have I included a References page?
4. Does the format follow the format provided?
5. Do headings, subheadings, and graphics help to make information clear?

Based on this evaluation, revise your report, correcting errors, and adding information as necessary.

**Writing the Good Copy**

Double-check your work. Make sure you’ve taken into account any editing suggestions. Review the rubric to ensure you’ve met the expectations. Submit your good copy to your teacher.

References

Stolley, K., Brizee, A., & Paiz, J. M. (2013, June 7). Avoiding Plagiarism. *Purdue OWL:*

*Avoiding Plagiarism*. Retrieved May 11, 2014, from https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/

Warlick, D. (2010, January 1). Citation Machine . *Citation Machine: Format & Generate*

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