

Research Terms

bibliography: a list of sources used by an author that includes author's name, article name, year published, etc.

circular reasoning: the writer simply restates his/her argument using different words

citation: a specific reference to a source listed in a bibliography

evaluating sources: determining the reliability of a source by checking author, date of publication, content

hasty generalization: incorrect conclusion based on little evidence

indexes: provides a bibliographic listing of articles

Internet: electronic information that may or may not be true or accurate

locating and gathering sources: finding information using resources

logical fallacy: evidence that sounds true, but is not logical

note cards: a card used to summarize, paraphrase, or quote research information

organizing information: using an outline to put information into a usable form

paraphrase: restatement of the author's words in your own words

primary source: written by people who witnessed or participated in an event

recording bibliographic information: a source card used to record information about the author, title, publication

secondary source: written by evaluating or analyzing primary sources or other sources

source: a location or person where information comes from; in research, often in the form of written work

almanacs and yearbooks: collection of facts or statistical information about people, countries, organizations

appeal to authority: using an authority to add credibility to their position

appeal to numbers: claims based on numbers that may or may not be true

atlases: contains different kinds of maps

author's perspective: the purpose a writer has for the text effect on its audience

chronological order: a writing organization that gives information/events in the order they occurred

compare: show how two things are similar

conclusion: a determination based on evidence

contrast: show how two things are dissimilar

emotional appeal: writer uses strong language to evoke fear, anger, joy

encyclopedias: contains articles on content areas such as science, history, geography, literature

fact technique: statements that can be proven true

false cause and effect: falsely claiming that one event caused the next

generalization: a broad statement that applies to all groups or experiences

government publications: city, county, state, or federal information related to the government

journalistic/inverted pyramid: presentation of the most essential information to the least important information

reference materials: almanacs, books, atlas, databases, Internet, etc.

repetition / parallelism: used to emphasize a point or show parallel structure

sequence diagram: helps to organize events in the order in which they occur

summary: tells what the text is about in a short, concise manner

supporting detail: facts, examples or reason to help explain a main idea

text features: features such as the table of contents or index that help you locate information

topic sentence: the main sentence that tells what the paragraph is about

venn diagram: compares and contrasts two ideas or things using overlapping circles