

I-SEARCH PAPER GUIDE

Directions: Use the questions below to help write your paper.

-Narrative means you write more conversationally. It can be more informal. You can use “I”.

-Expository means you write more formally. You include your research either in your own words or you directly quote by citing your sources. You cannot use “I”.

I. Narrative Introduction (narrative, approximately one page)

- What did you know about the topic before you conducted your research?
- What did you think or believe about your topic before you conducted your research?
- Why is this topic interesting to you? Why did you choose this topic?
- What did you hope to learn when you started?
- What is your thesis/overall research question(s)? (only 1 or 2)

II. The Search (narrative, approximately 1 page)

- Describe your search process. What types of sources did you use?
- Where did you find the best information?
- Where did you find the most success? Explain.
- Where did you have failures? Explain.
- Were any people especially helpful in your search process? Explain.
- If you had roadblocks or setbacks in the search process, describe them. If you didn't have any setbacks, talk about why you think you didn't run into problems.
- What changes did you make throughout the process in your topic or questions?

III. The Learning (expository, approximately 1–2 pages)

- What are the major findings of your research? Think: Do my findings support my thesis or overall research question(s)? Put this answer in your own words.
- What direct quotations (word-for-word) do you want to use? Include your citations/sources.

IV. The Reflection (narrative, approximately one page)

- What have you learned about conducting a research paper as complex as this?
- What was easy for you in this paper (successes)? What was difficult (frustrations)?
- What will you do differently the next time you write a research paper? Explain why.
- Leave your reader with your final thoughts about your paper and your topic.