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Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide (14th Edition)



Synopsis

This market-leading text provides readers with step-by-step guidance through the research writing process, from selecting and narrowing a topic to formatting the finished document. *Writing Research Papers* backs up its instruction with the most complete array of samples of any writing guide of this nature. The text continues its extremely thorough and accurate coverage of citation styles for a wide variety of disciplines. The fourteenth edition maintains Lester's successful approach while bringing new writing and documentation updates to assist the student researcher in keeping pace with electronic sources. Available in two formats—perfect-bound and spiral-bound with tabs, a handier format at a slightly higher price—Lester's text is one that readers will keep throughout their college careers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lester's "Writing Research Papers" is still the standard reference tool for university students and high school students who have to write research papers. It also provides an excellent rubric for developing and organizing any type of essay, not just research papers. I first encountered this book as an undergraduate in its fourth edition. I had previously used Coyle and similar books as required resources. Comparatively, Lester wins hand down because it is concise with good examples. Many editions later, in the world of electronic communications, Lester is still relevant as it has been updated to provide an accepted standard for citing electronic reference and Web sources. I have

had to purchase three additional copies since my first, one for each of my sons. In fact I really need to get the most recent edition for my own use since my youngest will taking his copy with him when he heads off to college. This is a must have reference tool for any serious student and a good resource for the professional.

I've written both MLA and APA research papers, and now I teach research writing. THIS IS THE ONE. I use a textbook (usually focusing on Argument/Rhetoric) and Lester's as the reference. It provides a wealth of solid advice, examples, outlines, guides, visuals and Web site addresses. Even though this as an English course, practically none of my students are English majors... so why teach MLA only when they'll have to use APA (social sciences) or CBE (science majors) in the not too distant future? This book addresses that and includes CMS (Humanities, Fine Arts). The appendix is EXCELLENT with the locations of sources for multiple disciplines ranging from Anthropology to Women's Studies. If your not an English major (and most aren't) and you want to learn research writing from source material to presentation style, this is the reference book.

I am a High School English teacher who has taught the research paper for 18 years. I have used this Lester book in 5 different editions over the years. I love this work, and think it is the best product out there for students, but the price has become prohibitive. I can no longer ask my students to buy their own copies. I wish there was a version at a more reasonable cost.

After taking a "Research Paper" writing class This book showed me how little I knew about writing...This book is a must have for your personal collection.

As a Media Specialist, this book is fantastic for teaching and assisting students with all levels of their research. It lives up to the content quality of the earlier editions. I have the highest praise for its content and usefulness. Due to its absurd price, I opted for the loose-leaf format. If you've bought Lesters before, be warned that the loose leaf pages are as thin and fragile as they are in previous bound versions, so they are not suited for a binder. Some pages tore as I put them in the rings. The pages are hole-punched to fit in a regular binder with lots of wasted space. It is awkward and hard to use in a regular binder. The book will fit in a 5x7 binder if you tear off the metal tabs that open and close it. You would also need to re-hole punch it to fit the smaller binder. It's more usable that way, but I'm worried about how the fragile pages will last with more holes in them. I'd recommend ordering a format other than the loose-leaf. It was not worth the money I saved.

This book was required for the class, but I would have bought it anyway! It is a very clear and concise writing guide..

If you need a book you can reference while writing a paper look elsewhere. Information is vague, if you can even find it. The book seems designed to be read cover to cover. For instance, MLA in-text citations and MLA bibliographies are separated by 20 pages on introductions and conclusions. While there are sections on specific formats, like CSE and APA, there is little that couldn't be gleaned from looking at a properly formatted paper. To get an idea, the section on proper formatting for an MLA paper is spread out over nine pages broken up by a 13 page paper on water use and a nine page essay on Hamlet. While 45 (forty five) pages are devoted to MLA bibliographies, only nine are provided for APA. CMS gets only four or five pages of examples without explanations. CSE gets only a handful of examples. I had to buy a second book just to fill in the gaps that this one left. Save your money and pick up a writer's reference. Any other book, just not this one. Interesting to note: the title of every single sample paper had a colon in it ("Arranged Marriages: The Revival Is Online"). It was so prevalent that some students thought it was a requirement of research papers.

I ordered this book thinking I needed to take this class, however I got word that one of my transfer classes covered it and I no longer have to take it. But I love the book. I needed this to help in some weak areas I have in writing and citing papers so I decided to keep it. This book came in great condition and within the due date.

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