

Research Writing in the Humanities and STEM: An Overview

Humanities Research Writing.

Research writing in the humanities involves the exploration and interpretation of human culture, history, and society. This type of writing often examines texts, artifacts, and other cultural products to understand and critique human experiences and values. Key characteristics include:

- **Analytical Focus:** Humanities research emphasizes critical analysis of primary and secondary sources. Researchers interpret texts, historical documents, art, and other cultural artifacts.
- **Theoretical Frameworks:** Humanities research often employs theoretical frameworks from fields like literary theory, philosophy, and cultural studies to frame and deepen analysis.
- **Argumentative Structure:** The writing typically presents a thesis or central argument supported by evidence and analysis.

Strategies for Humanities Research Writing.

- Through a **Literature Review:** Engage deeply with existing scholarship to understand the current state of research and identify gaps your work will address.
- **Employ Close Reading:** Pay careful attention to the details of your primary texts or artifacts. Analyze language, structure, and context to uncover deeper meanings.
- **Provide a Strong Thesis Statement:** Develop a clear, concise thesis that guides your analysis. Ensure each section of your paper supports this central argument.
- **Engage with Theory:** Use relevant theoretical frameworks to enrich your analysis and provide different perspectives on your topic.
- **Cite Appropriately:** Follow the citation style preferred in your discipline (e.g., MLA, Chicago). Proper citations lend credibility and show respect for other scholars' work.

STEM Research Writing.

STEM research writing involves presenting scientific investigations and findings in fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This type of writing is characterized by:

- **Empirical Focus:** STEM research is grounded in empirical data collected through experiments, observations, or simulations.
- **Structured Format:** STEM papers often follow a standardized structure, including sections like Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.
- **Objective Tone:** Writing in STEM is typically objective and precise, focusing on presenting data and findings clearly and concisely.

Strategies for STEM Research Writing.

- **Provide a Clear Research Question:** Start with a specific, measurable research question or hypothesis. This focus guides your experimental design and data collection.
- **Provide a Detailed Methodology:** Describe your methods in detail to allow others to replicate your study. Transparency is crucial for credibility.
- **Provide Accurate Data Analysis:** Use appropriate statistical tools and software to analyze your data. Ensure your methods are rigorous and your results are reliable.
- **Employ Visual Aids:** Use tables, graphs, and figures to present data clearly. Visual aids should complement the text and make complex information accessible.
- **Use Concise Writing:** Write clearly and concisely. Avoid unnecessary jargon and ensure your explanations are straightforward and understandable.