



Writing a Research Paper



Primary and Secondary Sources

- Primary Source--the literary work on which the paper will focus
- Secondary Source--historical, biographical, cultural, and critical documents to support claims.



Issue/Claim

- In writing a research paper, first identify an issue that interests you, then a tentative main claim.



Next Step--Secondary Sources/Working Bibliography

- Next step, identify several secondary sources and construct a working bibliography.



Start Writing

- Start composing by revisiting your tentative claim, taking into account what you have learned through research.



Document Sources

- Document your sources by following MLA guidelines.



Good Tips for the Research Paper

- See page 1606.