

Organizing Your Research

In order to help you organize your research before we write, please do the following:

- Read over all of your note points.
- For each note point, assign a category to it based on the letters below. Color code each category, then color code each note point. Some note points may fit into more than one category- great! Highlight each one to fit as many categories as possible.
- If you have information that does not readily fit into a category, leave it blank. Add to the notes in order to categorize it, or leave it alone—you may end up not using it. You may have to add an additional category here: one that your research indicates.
- Make tally marks of total number of notes per category.
- The better job you do with this organization of your notes, the easier time you will have writing your paper.
- Remember: You must include the following areas of research for your social problem in your paper:

B=Background/History

E=Extent of the problem (how bad is it?)

C=Causes

I=Impact of problem on environment, society, individuals

CF=Contributing factors (what adds to the problem?)

HI=Human Impact

CI=Costs Incurred by or for this problem (monetarily or emotionally)

S=Solutions: what has been done through government and private programs as well as individual efforts? What worked/didn't work? Why/why not?

PS=Proposed solutions (these you will create based upon your research).

CO=Conclusions: Is there any hope? Who is to be held responsible?

**If you do not have information from any of these categories, or realize that you have insufficient research, you will need to do more!

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other word would smell as sweet" (William Shakespeare).

What if Teddy Roosevelt's name was really Phil Smith, or if JFK was really PIN? What if Eminem really was named Reeses? A great deal of thought goes into naming a person. Your parents didn't randomly open up the name book and choose your name. They contemplated, discussed, pondered and possibly even prayed. You are uniquely you!

The following four scenarios are character developments. The key is that these characters are unnamed. Your job is to read through each scenario, pondering a proper name for each character. Once you have an appropriate name for the character, please write it on the line provided.

#1 - _____

Girl reared in a small town by very faith based parents. She is the youngest of 4 girls, and her parents value hard work.

#2 - _____

Boy reared in the city by a single mom (deserted by the father before the boy was even born). He is an only child, and his mother is a struggling artist.

#3 - _____

Girl reared by blue collar family. Both mom and dad work at the local furniture factory. This is child #2 for the family, but this is their first girl. Parents enjoy bowling and NASCAR.

#4 - _____

Boy reared by athletic parents. Dad is a former professional athlete and mom played collegiate sports. Parents both coach at local high school. Both value health and wellness.

Fairy Tale Detail Lesson

1. Three animals have to get to a destination, but they run into trouble on their way there.
2. An animal suffers from the loss of a loved one.
3. A storm blows in and a young girl ends up somewhere else.
4. A young girl seems to be dead, and she cannot live life without love.
5. A man turns outlaw then he robs or helps some people.
6. A young girl falls asleep and begins dreaming and is saved by a toy.
7. A boy helps children imagine.
8. A girl takes a walk through the woods to visit a relative. When she arrives, she notices that her relative is in trouble.
9. A girl attends a function even though the authority forbids her to.
10. A sea creature makes a deal with someone in order to meet a handsome guy.
11. A toy is jealous when he finds out that he may be replaced.
12. A poor man wishes to marry a woman that is a princess.
13. A poor boy grows a large experiment. Because of all the trouble that it causes, the boy eventually cuts it down.
14. The son of a king is tricked into thinking that he killed his father. Out of guilt, the prince runs away from home.
15. A family goes on a walk. When they return to their house, they find that a girl has snooped through their belongings and has made herself right at home.
16. Three brothers build their own house and they find that they can only take shelter from the wind in one brother's house.
17. A creature comes to life, however, it must prove that he can live like a human.
18. A young man is thrown into a pit of animals. He is only protected when someone else is there to protect him.
19. A young girl is trying to save her father from a horrible creature. She has to stay at the creature's house and do what he wants so she can get her father back.
20. A young boy fights a big man and wins with one shot in the head.
21. A mother is afraid for her child. She puts him in a thing and sends him away.
22. An orphan is raised by wild animals.
23. A person really needs help, but no one will believe him.
24. An animal does not fit in with his family and he feels insignificant.
25. A man needs help but many do not care except one.
26. A thing learns that he can do anything if he believes.
27. Some men are protected from fire by a superior being.
28. A little sea creature learns to share with his friends.
29. Two people live in a beautiful place that is later corrupted.
30. A girl has to be saved from a jealous lady by her many friends.

INSERTING RESEARCH

My head pounds like a jackhammer. the muscles in my back are as tight as a twisted rubber band. Beads of sweat trickle down my face as I struggle to breathe. Out of pain, I clench the nurse's fingers until my knuckles turn white. I soak up her words of wisdom like a sponge, for she knows much about childbirth. I never imagined labor to be so physically demanding. Then again, I never expected to be in labor at sixteen years old. How did I wind up here? I think to myself, Oh yes...how could I forget? In a jiffy, my mind is flooded with every explicit detail of my life changing experience...

It was February 10, 2004. I remember the date exactly, for it was my Sweet Sixteen. Coincidentally, it was also the night of Valentine's Day Dance. My boyfriend Curt and I were thrilled. This would be our first dance together, even though we had been dating for six months.

It took me a century to get ready. I carefully zipped up my elegant dress and stepped into my new high-heels. In a classy manner, I applied my ruby-red lipstick and splashed Amber Romance on my neck. I then selected the perfect silver necklace with dangling earrings to match. Finally, I aimlessly hair-sprayed my bouncy curls as I tightly closed my eyes. This night will be a fairy-tale, I presumed.

I gracefully tiptoed down the stairs and met my mother at the bottom. With tears in her emerald eyes, she declared that I looked like 'a million bucks.' After the compliment, she reminded me that my dad would have been particularly proud of me. That statement was enough to cause us both to bawl. After my father's dreadful death, my mother abandoned humanity, and I experienced clinical depression. We overcame our hardships, yet it was difficult to cope from time to time.

- The chance of teen pregnancy is the highest among girls in a single-parent home. (Brower 35)
- Girls without a father present have a strong tendency for early sexual activity. (Brower 35)
- The lack of fatherly influence may trigger doubts about male dependability and commitment. (Brower 36)
- If a single mother dates many partners, the daughter may become primed for early sexual exploration. (Brower 36)

11 Ways to Title a Story [Paper] *

1. Name a character in your story. **Examples:** *Tom Sawyer*, “The Raven”, *Romeo & Juliet*
2. Name a place in your story. **Examples:** *Walking to Vermont*, *Animal Farm*
3. Name a thing in your story. **Examples:** *Slam*, *Holes*, “Mirror”
4. Quote a line in your story. **Examples:** *Pay It Forward*, “I Have a Dream,” “The Life You Save May Be Your Own”
5. Tell a theme in your story. **Examples:** “Dreams”
6. Write a mysterious title. **Examples:** *When the Mississippi Ran Backward*, “The Night the Ghost Got In,” “The Brain--is wider than the Sky--”, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
7. Write a straight forward title. **Examples:** “Gulf War Journal,” “Nature”
8. Write a one word title. **Examples:** *Survivors*
9. Describe the key action in the title. **Examples:** *Escape from the Ice*, “To Build a Fire”
10. Describe exactly what you want the reader to take away. **Examples:** *Cloning: Opposing Viewpoints*
11. Find your own unique way to title it. **Examples:** *Forged By Fire*, *Monster*

STUDENT SAMPLE INTRODUCTIONS & CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION:

Aches and pains are typical for former athletes in their later years. It's common for a forty year old ex high school linebacker to awaken with pain in his knees and lower back. Gordon had never played sports. He had lived a sedentary lifestyle for most of his forty years. After struggling to get his pants on, he slides on his size eight slippers and moseys towards the kitchen. He flips on the television like he does every morning to the Today Show on NBC. Katie and Matt were reviewing the latest study done at Harvard University. Thirty percent of kids age 8-11 are overweight, and 15% are obese (Obesity in Youth 1). Obesity is more common in boys than girls while in adolescence (Obesity in Youth 1). Finally, when obese children grow up they may also suffer pain in joints, especially the hips (Obesity in Youth 1). Gordon turns his attention from the TV and gets on his tiptoes to grab the cereal from the top shelf of his cupboard. Gordon was never a tall boy, which is probably the reason why he never got into sports. Standing a shade under 5' 8", Gordon's noticeable lack of height was overshadowed by his girth. Tipping the scales at 275 pounds made Gordon no featherweight. At work last week had plugged his height and weight into a computer program on a weight management web site to calculate something called Body Mass Index or BMI. "Most men have a BMI between 20-25" (Obesity 1). Gordon's was 41. Anything over 30 is widely considered obese (Obesity 1). Unlike his pants, Gordon fit into that category just fine.

CONCLUSION:

Sensing the Gordon's fear of a complex surgery, Dr. Mascuro mentioned a few different procedures that were available for drastic weight loss. A gene discovered by a group of scientists in upstate New York has been shown to produce a hormone called leptin (Pool 3). The hormone made in fat cells sent to the brain to tell it how much fat is deposited in the body. In obese lab rats, leptin is not produced, so lab rats think they are starving in turn making them eat more. This cycle continues until the rats are almost too large to function (Pool 3). Once the rats were giving injections of leptin, their weight was drastically reduced for the body thought it had a substantial amount of fat and therefore it consumed less food (Pool 3). To Gordon, this sounded like a biology lesson, but could it make him lose weight? The doctor said although this treatment may be very successful, it has not been proven safe for humans. More tests were the last thing Gordon wanted. Since there were no other options readily available, he knew gastric bypass was the best option for saving his life.

Marissa thanked Gordon as he walked back to his second floor office, but she did not look him in the eye. More of the same he thought to himself. Today was no different than any other day. And indeed it wasn't. Gordon got up, had his Atkins-friendly breakfast, caught a cab to work and now it was 10:15 again. Snack time. As he approached the break room, his phone vibrated. Gordon looked down at the screen and sees the hospital on his caller idea. He put the phone to his ear. "Your all set sir, you are scheduled to meet with your surgeon on Monday. Congratulations! ", says the voice on the other end as a larger than life smile crept across Gordon's face.

INTRODUCTION:

To whom it may concern,

By now I should be gone, and I will finally be happy. Please keep in mind, I love you all, but my life no longer has value. I would rather live eternally in Hell than continue this pitiless life here. Please tell my brother, Michael, that he has a great life ahead of him, and to know that I'll always be with them, and be sure to tell him how proud I am of him. Also, make sure my parents know it is not their fault. It is no ones fault, only my own. The reasons I have, I will take to my grave. Tell my Mom and my Daddy not to worry, their princess is watching over him and she is beaming. To my friends: don't cry for me I'm not worth it, just take care of yourselves. My 15 years of life is long enough. I'm through with wearing a smile and pretending to be something that I'm not. I hate what I am, and I know I'll never be the girl everyone wants me to be. No one knows what it is like, and worse, no one cares enough to try to find out why. Life has lost its flavor for me. The pressure from our world is too great (Murphy 19). A world completely of fear. I am afraid to love who I choose. I am afraid to speak my mind. I am afraid to take a chance. Most of all I am purely afraid, but I am not afraid to die. I am not afraid of the pain. I have been through too much of it already, that it is not worth being scared. But be glad because now I have found peace, I am gone, I have no fears. Don't cry one single tear, just live the life I could never have, and forget me.

Kendall

There, she thought, It's done, now I can finally be free. The tears were streaming down her face as she pulled out the gun. She sat there looking at it and thought, How could such a harmful gun look so innocent? Almost like a toy, but without the wear from countless games played in the backyard of cowboys and Indians. Kendall remembered her older brother, Michael, had a toy gun like this, and he used to play those games. She remembered how his face lit up when he tore away the wrapping paper to reveal the gleaming, plastic revolver. He was so proud when he showed his friends the next day. Michael was only seven years old and she was four. She would look out the window and watch her brother and his friends galloping and hiding throughout the woods. They would run and shout and fire the pretend bullets that would pellet through the air and strike each of them. He and his friends would fall down laughing, and he would look like he was having so much fun. Kendall looked up to Michael so much, he was everything she wanted to be, he was the one everyone loved (Galas 53).

Kendall was quickly brought back to reality at the sound of Michael's stereo. She closed her eyes, he has grown up since she first gave him that toy gun, she thought, how eleven years has gone by fast, but he'll be OK, he's strong, I know he is. She turned and rays of light flickered off the lustrous gun. This is it, she thought as she walked over to the window, finger on the trigger.

CONCLUSION:

Michael is now a spokesperson for kids who are going through depression, and have thought of suicide. More than 5,000 young teens kill themselves, and 2 million attempt it (Galas 7). He talks about if you are less sexually active (Wetzstien A05), or have a strong religious background, you are less likely to commit suicide (Galas 15). Also, maintaining a healthy lifestyle helps prevent depression (Preventing C1). In many cases of the teen Michael has talked to, depression was directly connected to their thoughts of suicide (Suicide 2) Depression is very common among teens. Because of the pressures of society, stress is a major factor when it comes to depression. Michael also found that significant events such as death, divorce, break-ups, neglect and bullying can cause depression (Teen 1-2) Michael also talks about how to deal with someone if they are going through depression. He says you should always be kind, and find the best in people, not the worst. (Bale 33), and you should not tease people just because they are different (Raeburn 72), but to look at who they really are. Take the time to get to know someone, it could make all the difference. Losing someone who takes their own life away is painful (Galas 8), and Michael remembers what it was like to lose a sister. He does not want anyone else to have to go through that pain. Every week, he goes and sets flowers down at Kendall's grave. Inscribed on her headstone is her favorite Bible verse, and the words Michael repeats every morning, just to get through the day:

And teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you, and surly I am with you always, even to the very end of the age. -Matthew 28:20

LAST MINUTE DETAILS

Within your paper, you need to have page numbers. These need to be in a header, flush right with your name and the page number, i.e. Palmer 2. Do not put a page number on the first page.

TITLE PAGE INFORMATION:

TITLE
by Author

Assignment title
Date
Teacher
Hour

Introduction (_____ points)

NAME _____

- _____ Research topic is introduced
- _____ Introduction is creative and interesting
- _____ Introduction begins in the action or with a point of interest

Body Development (_____ points)

- _____ Body clearly focuses on the topic, helping to further the point
- _____ Body is moment-by-moment in terms of detail
- _____ Detail serves to enhance understanding of situation, not bog it down
- _____ Clear, rich details paint a picture for the reader
- _____ Story is clearly written, focused and logically organized
- _____ Balance of research and narrative, story does not ramble
- _____ Body works to help support the main point of the commentary, keeping focus and fluidity
- _____ Must be about 30-40% research data / 60-70% story
- _____ Quotes flow and fit together well

Conclusion (_____ points)

- _____ Main point is clear by the conclusion
- _____ All events are wrapped up and sufficiently analyzed by the end
- _____ No new information is presented in the conclusion

Style (_____ points)

- _____ More than just a story told — a point made or implied
- _____ Narrative is believable
- _____ Attention to description and detail — ZOOM!
- _____ Title works to introduce essay and connects to the main point
- _____ Used dialogue effectively

Works Cited (_____ points)

- _____ All entries in paper are included and punctuated correctly
- _____ All entries are complete
- _____ MLA style followed (Alphabetized, spacing, etc.)
- _____ Correct parenthetical citation

Technical / Organization (_____ points)

- _____ Avoided fragments and run-ons
- _____ No ending in prepositions
- _____ Spelling and capitalization is correct
- _____ Correct use of quotation marks — thoughts need punctuation
- _____ Avoided use of ‘there is’, ‘there are’, a lot
- _____ Used a wide variety of words and avoided overuse of words; interesting vocabulary
- _____ Eliminated weak verbs and vague modifiers (VERY, MANY, MUCH, FEW, SOME)
- _____ All paragraphs flow and fit together well
- _____ Used a variety of sentences
- _____ Appropriate/consistent verb tense
- _____ Computer generated page numbers

TOTAL: _____ / _____

WRITING REFLECTION:

1. What did you like about the process of writing this essay? What went well for you?
2. What did you NOT like about the process of writing this essay? What did not go so well for you?
3. What could you focus more effort and attention on for the next essay? What are your goals?
4. What grade do you think this essay has earned? Explain why...
5. What could Mrs. Irish do to help you more in the next essay? What do you think she should keep the same?