

Contents

Preface	xiii
1. So You Have to Write a Research Paper	1
What Is a Research Paper? A Few Helpful Metaphors	3
What Research Paper Writing Entails	6
Blueprint of the Book	7
2. Getting Started: Finding a Research Question	15
Characteristics of a Good Question	15
<i>Find Something Interesting</i>	16
<i>Determining Why Your Topic Is Important</i>	24
<i>If Possible, Identifying a Puzzle</i>	26
<i>Starting Words for Questions</i>	26
<i>Types of Research and Questions</i>	30
<i>Using the Advice to Generate Questions</i>	31
<i>Stating Your Question Concisely and Directly</i>	35
Practical Summary	37
Recipe 1: The Research Question	38
Exercises	39
3. Learning Proper Citation Forms, Finding the Scholarly Debate, and Summarizing and Classifying Arguments: The Annotated Bibliography	41
What Are Bibliographies, and	
Why Do We Bother with Them?	42
Plagiarism versus Paraphrasing	45
Annotating the Bibliography	48
Identifying the Key Conceptual Issues	49
Searching for Sources	50
Identifying Similar Arguments and	
Grouping Your Sources	58
One Last Word of Advice: Generic Schools of Thought	60
Writing the Annotated Bibliography	61
<i>The Beginnings of Gabriela's AB</i>	65
Practical Summary	69
Recipe 2: Annotated Bibliography	70
Exercises	71

4. Making Sense of the Scholarly Answers to Your Research Question: Writing the Literature Review	75
Preparing for and Understanding the Literature Review	76
The Fundamentals of the Literature Review	77
Writing the Literature Review	79
Practical Summary	88
Recipe 3: Literature Review	89
Exercises	91
5. Effectively Distilling Your Argument: The Thesis, Model, and Hypothesis	93
The Thesis	93
The Model	94
The Hypothesis	98
Applying These Insights	102
Practical Summary	104
Recipe 4: Model and Hypothesis Section	104
Exercises	106
6. Revising and Editing Your Work: The Writing-Thinking Spiral	109
Practical Summary	115
Recipe 5: Revising and Editing	116
Exercises	119
7. Making Your Plan and Protecting Yourself from Criticism: The Research Design	121
Research Design: The Medical Science Analogy	122
Writing the Research Design	126
<i>Choosing Cases</i>	126
<i>Concept Delineation and Measurement:</i>	
<i>Operational Definitions and Operationalization</i>	134
<i>Identifying Data Sources</i>	139
<i>Strategies for Uncovering and, at Times, Creating Data</i>	140
<i>Methodology</i>	141
Finishing Touches on the Research Design	143
Practical Summary	148
Recipe 6: Research Design	148
Exercises	151
8. Evaluating the Argument: The Analysis and Assessment Section	155
Qualitative Analysis	156
Quantitative Analysis	163

Practical Summary	170
Recipe 7: Analysis and Assessment	171
Exercises	173

9. Bringing the Paper Together in Three Essential Ways: The Conclusion, Introduction, and Title 175

Considering the Significance and Limitations of Your Findings: The Conclusion	176
Writing a Good Introduction	181
A Last Element in Attracting Readers: Developing an Appealing Title	185
Are You Done? The Joy (and Continued Responsibilities) of Finalizing Your Draft	187
Practical Summary	188
Recipe 8: Conclusion, Introduction, and Title	188
Exercises	189

Bibliography 191

Index 197

Boxes

Box 3.1: Paraphrasing and Plagiarism: Knowing the Difference	47
Box 3.2: Results from a Library of Congress Online Catalog Search	52
Box 3.3: Learning More from Two Library Records	54
Box 3.4: Learning from the Permalink	56