



Gathering Information

RESEARCH PROJECT #1

How to Write the Magazine Article

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAGAZINE ARTICLE

HEADING

In the top left corner, type your name on the first line.

Single space, then type: Gathering Information.

Single space, then type: Synthesis - Magazine Article

TITLE

Double space and center on the page: Type the headline for your magazine topic. (Headlines should catch the attention of your audience; make them want to read the article.)

BODY

Leave a 1" margin on all sides. Use 12 pt. Times font with double spacing. The article must be AT LEAST two full pages in length (this means to the very bottom of the 2nd page), but no longer than three pages in length. You will be graded off if the article runs short OR long. Learning how to write in a specified length of space is part of the learning objective.

Write the body of your article using AP Style Guidelines. This means write in short paragraphs. MLA style requires that each paragraph be at least three sentences in length. AP Style does not. Magazines print in columns, usually between two and three inches wide. Therefore, we use what is known as AP Style (Associated Press). Paragraphs written in AP Style contain a single idea and are often only one or two sentences in length. Sometimes, they are as short as one word in length.

Write in third person (EX: Do not use "I" or "You"). Show original thought – not just a rehashing of what you've read. Make the article interesting for the reader.

4-PARTS TO THE BODY

Part 1 - The Lead: When writing a feature article, the lead does not concentrate on giving the Who, What, When and Where of the story. It concentrates on "hooking" the readers. It should be as interesting as possible (without being misleading) to provoke the reader to read on.

Part 2 - The “Nut Graph:” The lead is followed by what is known as the “nut graph.” This is the establishing section, or theme paragraph, that gives the reader an understanding of the subject and the angle or point the article is trying to make. This paragraph tells the reader what the article is going to be about by summarizing the article in a nutshell. The nut graph serves as a transition paragraph to bridge the lead to the body of the article.

Part 3 - The Body: The body of the article is the development section of your story. This is the part where the writer provides material and evidence to support the first two sections - - using quotes, anecdotes, statistics, examples, etc. to help strengthen and add emphasis to the story. The story should be presented in a clearly organized and logical way and should justify the theme presented in the nut graph.

Part 4 - The Conclusion: The ending or conclusion pulls together the points of the article and ties them back into the lead or theme statement.

QUOTES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

The article should include quotes from at least two expert sources you have personally interviewed.

MLA style uses parenthetical documentation with a works cited page. Magazine articles do not - - AP Style includes full attribution (First Name, Last Name and the person's Title) as part of the quote or paraphrase.

EXAMPLE OF A DIRECT QUOTE:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy,” said Martin Luther King, Jr., Baptist minister and civil rights activist.

EXAMPLE OF AN INTRODUCTION OF THE SOURCE FOLLOWED BY THE QUOTE:

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., often spoke out about the difficulties encountered when dealing with white moderates during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy,” King said.

NOTE: Once a person has been fully identified on the first reference (first name, last name and proper title that makes clear why this person is an expert on the topic), all future references are according to the last name only. The exception is when there is more than one person appearing in the article with the same last name.

ALSO NOTE: These same rules apply when you paraphrase what a person said. The only difference is that when you paraphrase, you do not include quotation marks.