



LIFE·PAC®

Language Arts

Mark Twain

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Alpha Omega Publications®

LANGUAGE ARTS 1109 RESEARCH

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RESEARCH

God gave people inquisitive minds. Their inquisitiveness compels them to find the answers to questions, to seek the truth, and to satisfy their desire to know.

Scientists and researchers conduct experiments to satisfy their inquisitiveness. Others read and collect the available information and form conclusions from their reading.

Most people have a subject they would like to know more about or a problem they would like to solve. They can learn more about the subject of their interest by reading and studying the writings of others.

In this LIFEPAAC® you will learn where and how to find information on a subject that interests you. In addition, you will learn how to bring the information together into an original research paper that may be of interest to others.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Define the investigative process.
2. Describe the way to choose a subject for a research paper.
3. Define a thesis statement.
4. List three characteristics of a thesis statement.
5. Name major sources of information.
6. Describe the way to locate materials in the library.
7. Explain the necessary information for bibliography cards.
8. Identify primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.
9. Describe the process of note taking.
10. Describe the parts of the formal outline.
11. Explain the way to write a formal research paper.
12. Describe the proper form for footnotes.

Survey the LIFEPAAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

Research is the process of investigating or seeking facts that will lead to the truth about something. That truth is assembled from the facts a person finds during the investigation.

The writer of a research paper discovers the facts about his or her subject by reading material related to the subject under investigation, taking notes from that material, and presenting the truth of the subject in a paper.

In this section you will learn more about the investigative process. You will choose a subject for a research paper, formulate a thesis, and become acquainted with various general sources of information.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Define the investigative process.
2. Describe the way to choose a subject for a research paper.
3. Define a thesis statement.
4. List three characteristics of a thesis statement.
5. Name major sources of information.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

analyze

facet

pursue

cardiovascular

microcosm

ramification

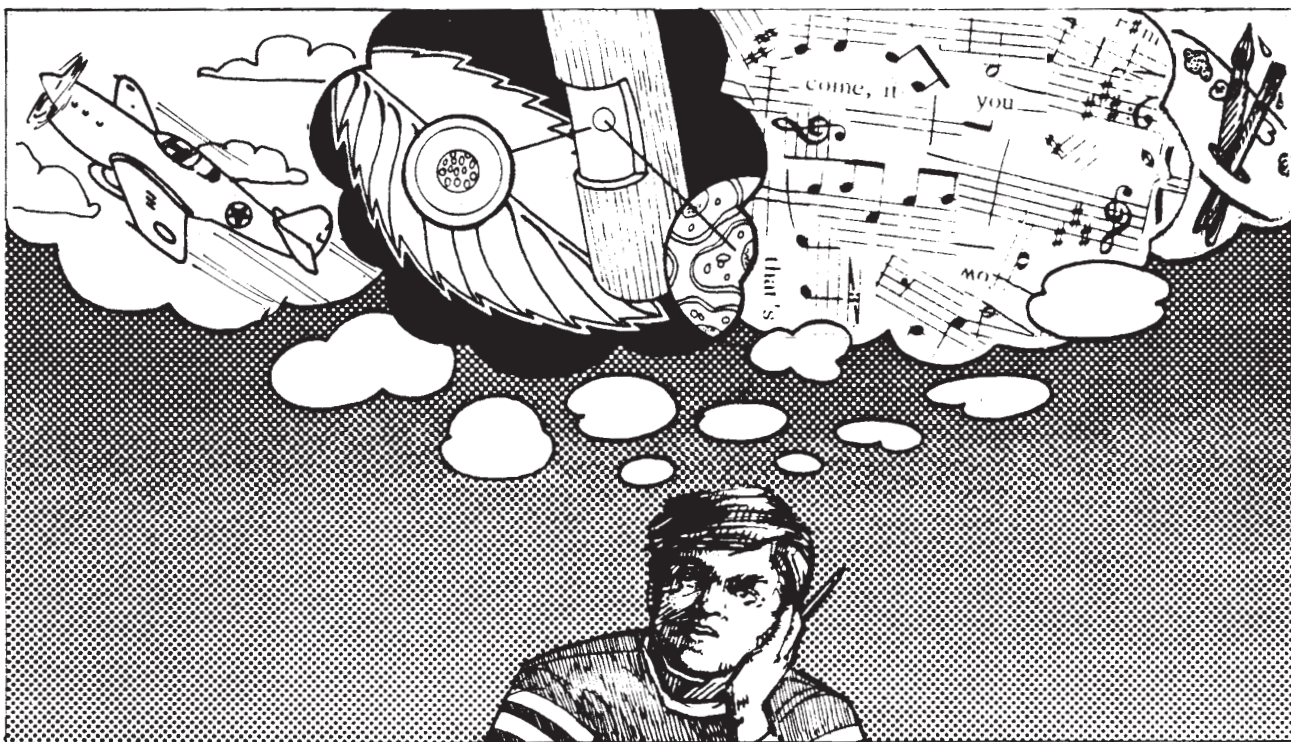
evaluate

During the investigative process, a person learns to select, **evaluate**, and **analyze** the facts. A person also learns to think and to create a new and different way of looking at the subject. In this sense the research paper is original and important enough to justify the work involved.

CHOOSING A SUBJECT

Choosing a suitable subject for a research paper is important. Because of the time the writer will spend in researching the subject, the subject must be one that is interesting to the writer. The subject should also be one that merits extensive research and one that can be thoroughly developed in the number of words required.

In addition, the subject should be capable of being researched. A subject that has been written about sparingly is a good choice for a doctoral student in college, but is a poor choice for a high school student. The high school student must rely on a variety of sources that have been written by others. The subject must also be one that can be developed with facts. A personal subject that reflects the writer's opinions is not suitable for a research paper. The history of a person's life is also inappropriate for a research paper subject.



Limit the Subject

◆ Complete these activities.

- 1.1 Read the list of subjects. On the blank indicate the appropriateness of the subject for a research paper by writing *appropriate* and *not appropriate*.
- _____ My experiences at deep-sea fishing in San Diego, California.
 - _____ Proper equipment for scuba diving.
 - _____ The history of my hometown from 1800 to 1900.
 - _____ The early life of Eleanor Roosevelt.
 - _____ Why driver education should be offered free of charge at my high school.

◆ Complete this activity.

- 1.2 On the lines write the reason that each of the subjects you marked *not appropriate* in Activity 1.1 is not appropriate. Indicate the letter of each inappropriate subject.
- _____
 - _____
 - _____

Broad subject. A writer should begin the search for a subject by examining broad areas of interest. These areas are then broken down into less general subjects. For example, a person might be interested in sports. Sports is, obviously, too broad a topic for a research paper. The subject contains too many specific sports to yield in-depth information. The writer would be forced to write several volumes on sports or would be able to give only a general overview of each sport.

Limited subject. Within the general subject of sports are many smaller subjects. Some of them are individual sports, such as football, basketball, and tennis. The writer begins to think about which sports are of particular interest to him. If the sport of most interest is tennis, the writer examines that subject to determine if it can be broken down into even smaller subjects. The subject *tennis* contains such limited subjects as tennis equipment, rules, clothing, techniques, and courts.

Choosing a subject, then, involves deciding on a broad area of interest, limiting its scope to a less general subject, and limiting that less general subject to a very specific subject that can be researched and written about in the number of words assigned.

◆ **Complete this activity.**

1.3 Read the following list of subjects. On each line, write *broad* or *limited* to show the acceptability of the subject for a research paper.

- a. _____ How to Choose a Ten-Speed Bicycle
- b. _____ Nutrition
- c. _____ Farming in the Middle Atlantic States
- d. _____ How to Make Paper in Your Own Home
- e. _____ Jogging

READING FOR BACKGROUND MATERIAL

After the writer has chosen a subject that is interesting, appropriate for research, and limited, he should begin to gather background information by reading one or two general articles on the subject. Reading a general article helps the writer determine whether the subject is too broad or too narrow and whether others have studied the subject.

An encyclopedia article provides general information on the subject. The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Encyclopedia Americana*, and the *World Book* are excellent sources for general information. They help the writer see the possibilities and **ramifications** of the subject. These general information articles also help the writer become more familiar with the area in which he is working. Other general sources that provide effective background information are chapters in textbooks, histories, biographical references, and specialized dictionaries.

◆ **Complete these activities.**

1.4 Read an article on the Bible from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Encyclopedia Americana*, or the *World Book*, and answer these questions.

- a. From what language is the word *Bible* taken? _____
- b. What is the meaning of the word *Bible*? _____
