

# **Scholarly Writing 1: Writing Preparations & Research**

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# Lecture Overview

- Common Types of Scholarly Writing
- What You Should Ask Your Professor Before You Start
- Finding a Topic
  - Narrowing a Topic
  - Developing a Topic
- Gathering Resources
  - Determining Appropriate Sources
  - How to Locate Sources
- Next Lecture: Organizing Your Paper

# Common Types of Scholarly Writing

- Article Summary
  - Summarize the content of the article
- Literature Review
  - Summary the literature on a topic
  - Mostly other people's ideas
- Book Review
  - Generally a “book review” includes a critique of the work
- Journal
  - Your ideas and reactions
  - Most professors like this applied to yourself or life situations
- Blog Entry
  - Your ideas
  - Further the discussion
- Research Paper (with actual research)
  - Actual research you conducted
  - Includes Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, Results, & Discussion
- Scholarly/Research Paper (Next Slide)
- Position Paper

# Research Paper or Scholarly Paper

- Many use “research” to mean library research, not actually conducting research.
- I prefer “scholarly paper” to be clear
- Topical paper, similar to a non-research journal article
- Different Approaches:
  - Focus exclusively or almost exclusively on others ideas – Generally early in the undergraduate level
  - Provide some critique and direction – generally upper years of undergraduate and early graduate
  - You should be introducing a new idea or contribution to the literature backed with published works – upper level graduate paper, conference presentation, & published articles

# Scholarly Paper

- Graduate Level (& Upper levels of Undergraduate)
  - Do **NOT**:
    - Use Wikipedia and other internet sites for general use
    - Only summarize others people's work
    - Use too many quotes
      - General rule, not more than one every other page and use only for important points
    - Include personal stories or self-disclosure except in rare instances
    - Rely much upon class text books or general text books
  - Do:
    - Use Scholarly Works for 95% or more of references:
      - Defined as 1) Intended for a Professional Audience & 2) Peer Reviewed
      - Includes 1) Books intended for professional audience 2) Book Chapters from Edited Books, and 3) Journal Articles.
    - Back up your ideas
    - Have a point! You should add your ideas and support them
    - Include both research and theoretical material in most papers
    - Uses a sufficient number of resources
    - Present both sides of an argument; multiple perspectives

# Ask Your Professors

- Different Professors Want Different Things and Often Assume You Know What They Want!
- Good Questions:
  - Do you want us to just summarize what is already out there or do you want our ideas, too.
    - If a graduate level professors wants just summary, in most situations they are not doing you justice!
  - How much should be our opinion and how much should be focused on what the experts say.
  - Can we run our topics by you for feedback
    - If they say yes, do it!
  - Can we turn in an outline or a draft to get feedback from you?
    - If they say yes, do it!

# Finding a Topic

- General Suggestions:
  - Find something that interests you
  - Pick a topic that is valuable, useful
  - Pick a topic that has adequate resources
  - Be sure it is relevant to the course; don't force it!
  - Be sure it fits the assignment requirements; again, don't force it!
  - Do not pick a topic where you will plagiarize yourself
  - Find a general topic and then narrow it as you do your initial research

# Narrowing a Topic

- Many students try to write papers on topics that are way too broad. Examples:
  - Borderline Personality Disorder
  - Diversity Issues in Therapy
  - General Overview of Psychoanalytic Theory
  - Play Therapy
- As a general rule, if you can find multiple books on the topic, it is too broad for your paper!
- It is okay to start this broad, but then begin your research and narrow it down. Examples:
  - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy as a Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder
  - Working with Asian Men in Long-term Therapy
  - A Comparison of the Major Themes of Object Relations and Self Psychology
  - Experiential Approaches to Play Therapy

# Developing a Topic

- Once your topic is narrow enough for a paper, then you need to develop it.
- Researching Your Topic:
  - Begin Broad
    - You may begin by using text books or general overviews relevant to your topic; however, do NOT use these as primary sources
    - Identify important works. For example, what articles and authors are regularly cited on this topic.
  - Allow the material to generate ideas and your perspective or paper thesis
  - Develop a thesis or position
    - Support with scholarly works
    - Still present the other side and find resources with a different perspective

# Gathering Resources

- Remember, Scholarly Resources!!
  - Peer Reviewed *and* Intended for Professional Audience
  - Use mostly Journal Articles, Chapters from an Edited Book, and Scholarly Books
  - Generally avoid text books, especially undergraduate text books. These may be helpful in identifying resources, but are poor references
    - Your job on a scholarly paper is to go beyond the general information that text books would provide!
- Internet
  - Most open access resources on the internet are not scholarly and not appropriate for a scholarly paper.
  - General rule: If you can find an author, a date, and/or information on how it has been peer reviewed, do **NOT** use it.
  - Examples of inappropriate internet references:
    - Anything on wikipedia!
    - <http://www.existential-therapy.com/> (my web site; good information, not a scholarly reference)
    - <http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/horney.html> (I see this one all the time; still not scholarly)
  - Example of an acceptable online resource:
    - <http://pcsp.libraries.rutgers.edu/index.php/pcsp> (an open access, free online journal that is peer reviewed and intended for a professional audience)

# Gathering Resources

- Finding Resources:
  - Databases are your best sources, such as APA's PsychINFO, Medline, and ERIC databases. These have mostly just scholarly works.
  - Google Scholar and Google Books can be helpful, but be more careful to make sure they are scholarly
  - References section of resources you have obtained:
    - Here is where your text books and general resources are helpful; not to use as a reference, but to identify important works you need to locate and use.
  - Other Tips:
    - Broaden your search terms:
      - Pay attention to the key terms that keep coming up in your searches, search for them.
    - Keep an open mind
      - Let you topic change if you find information challenging your initial position

# Conclusion

- At this point, you should be ready to begin your paper.
- Other Beginning Lecture Topics Available:
  - Organizing Your Paper
  - Learning and Mastering APA Style
- Advanced lecture Topics Available
  - How to Become a Great Writer
  - Getting Your Paper Published: Conference Presentations, Journal Articles & Book