

Some Guidelines for Writing a Good Research Paper

- ❑ Paper should be legible and readable
- ❑ What are the goals of your research?
- ❑ What are your major research questions?
- ❑ How do your questions and goals relate to what you have learned in the class?
- ❑ What are your primary methods for doing the research?
- ❑ What are your major findings?
- ❑ Do they surprise or challenge your expectations?
- ❑ Can you draw any conclusions?
- ❑ What interesting questions remain to be asked that you couldn't answer?
- ❑ Always CITE your references and sources (*this is good!*)
- ❑ Never use someone else's words/ideas as your own –always provide sources
- ❑ Double check your data
- ❑ Spell check your work

CITING YOUR REFERENCES

- ❑ You should use the MLA Format to cite your references in your paper. Information about the MLA Format can be found in the university library. Ask any librarian for help. NOTE: Be sure you read the information carefully as you cite your references, especially when using urls and Internet references. There is a specific way to cite these, so read the information carefully.
- ❑ The general way to cite your reference is to include the author and publication year in a parenthetical remark at the end of the sentence that uses the reference. Example: [Morris and Lee, 2005]

Then at the end of the paper, you will give a more detailed list of references with all required information for the reader to use if necessary.

Example: Morris, James, and Lee, Peter. The Incredibly Shrinking Pipeline is not Just for Women Anymore, *Computing Research News* 16(3):20, 2004

<http://www.cra.org/CRN/articles/may04/morris.lee.html>