

Background:

A research paper, according to Purdue University's OWL website, "is the culmination and final product of an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition." At the core of the paper are the primary and secondary sources that provide evidence to support the topic you are writing about. The research paper requires time to investigate and evaluate sources to help interpreting texts. The goal of writing an analytical research paper is to draw on what others have to say about the topic to help you in crafting an exploration and evaluation of your topic.

Research Paper Steps

First Step: Understand the assignment: Open Topic or Assigned Topic

Second Step: Primary Research
a. Using text for evidence

Third Step: Research: Deciding What Types of information looking for? (Categories from AML Database)
a. biographies
b. critical essays (academic literary journal essays usually written by college professors)
c. reference
d. featured content
e. related topic
f. magazines
g. news
h. academic journals
i. websites

Third Step: ***Evaluating Sources (CRAP)***
a. Current (How recent is info? How recent website updated? Info current for your topic?)
b. Reliability (Content primarily opinion? Biased? Balanced? Other reference sources for data?)
c. Authority (Who is author? What are credentials? Are they reputable? Advertisements?)
d. Purpose (Fact or opinion? Trying to sell something?)

Fourth Step: ***Taking Notes***
a. Subject/Pg. #/Summary, Paraphrase or Direct Quote/Notecard #& letter
b. Bib Card and #

Different Ways of Taking Notes

- a. Salinger Biography paragraph: Notability: Annotating notes and using notes in paragraph
- b. Salinger Writings paragraph: AML: Saving snippets and email notes to self to use
- c. Catcher in the Rye Summary: index cards

Fifth Step: ***Develop a thesis statement***

Sixth Step: ***Create a working outline***

Seventh Step: ***Write a rough draft with Works Cited Page***

Eighth Step: ***Revise and edit paper***

Ninth Step: ***Final Draft***

Research Paper Writing Prompt

Write at least a 7 page analytical research paper, with 1" margins/double-spaced/Times New Roman 12" font, which includes outline and Works Cited page analyzing the symbolism Salinger uses in *The Catcher in the Rye*. Explain how Salinger develops this symbol throughout the story. Discuss the symbol's meaning and significance and explore its contributions to the overall message of the novel. Due April 19 by 4:00 pm to Turnitin.com

Research Paper Breakdown

- I. Introduction Paragraph
- II. Salinger's Biography (with secondary source)
- III. Salinger's writings (with secondary source)
- IV. Catcher in the Rye summary (with secondary source)
- V. Catcher in the Rye controversy and legacy (with secondary source)
- VI. Role of symbolism in novels, especially in *Catcher in the Rye* (with secondary source)
- VII. Choice of one symbol (with primary sources)
 - a. What is the symbol
 - b. How is symbol developed throughout the novel
 - c. Meaning of symbol (with secondary sources)
 - d. How symbol is significant and contributes to overall message of the novel (with secondary sources)
- VIII. Conclusion

Symbols

Ducks	Museum of Natural History/Mummies	Red Hunting Cap	Allie's baseball mitt
Catcher in the Rye	Phoebe's notebook	Record	Profanity on walls
Prep Schools	Language	The Gold Ring	New York Settings

Assessment

See attached rubric.