HONORS PAPERS / PROJECTS

Recommended length of Research Bibliography

Minimum requirement: the number of citations on a work cited page should correspond to the number of pages of the body of the paper, i.e. a 5 page paper should have AT LEAST 5 sources on the works cited page.

These citations should include the following formats:
- At least 2-3 books (paper or electronic).
- At least 3-5 journal (not magazine or newspaper) articles (paper or electronic). Articles should not be editorials, book reviews, movie reviews, or abstracts.
- No more than 2-3 Websites which meet basic evaluation standards for authorship, accuracy, timeliness, and bias.
- Statistics should be included when applicable to the topic.
- Primary vs. secondary source material – may want to make the distinction between the two and require primary sources instead of secondary.
- May want to promote the inclusion of a “literature review” as part of all honors papers. See handout.

From the MLA Handbook, 5th edition, p. 2:

The research paper is generally based on primary research, secondary research, or a combination of the two. Primary research is the study of a subject through firsthand observation and investigation, such as analyzing a literary or historical text, a film, or a performance; conducting a survey or an interview; or carrying out a laboratory experiment. Primary sources include statistical data, historical documents, and works of literature and art. Secondary research is the examination of studies that other researchers have made of a subject. Examples of secondary sources are books and articles about political issues, historical events, scientific debates, or literary works.

Chaffey College librarians will be happy to assist you with your researching needs!

How?
- In person: Monday – Thursday 8-8; Friday 8-6; Saturday 8-4
- Telephone for quick reference: 909 941-2419
- Email for quick reference: library@chaffey.edu
- Chaffey College Library web address: www.chaffey.edu/library
An abstract:

- Is a stand alone statement that briefly conveys the important information in a paper.
- Should be written **LAST** after the paper has been completed. You will not be able to select and summarize essential information until all the information has been assembled into your final product – the paper itself.

An abstract should include:

- The objective or purpose of the paper
- Methods used in studying the topic or conducting the research or experiment
- Results of your research or experiment
- Conclusion

An abstract should not include:

- Background information about your topic
- A detailed description of methods used to conduct your research or experiment
- References or citations to other literature

The style of an abstract should be:

- Concise and clear – the wording should be direct. This means that you will probably not use the same sentence structure as you would in your paper

How do you write an abstract?

- Highlight the objective and conclusions that are in the paper’s introduction and the discussion
- Bracket information in the main body of your paper that contains keyword information
- Highlight any results or observation from your paper
- Compile the above highlighted and bracketed information into a single paragraph

Remember to:

- Delete extra words and phrases
- Delete any background information
- Rephrase the first sentence so that it starts off with the new information contained in the paper, rather than with the general topic. One way of doing this is to begin the first sentence with the phrase “this paper” or “this study…”
http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/abstracts.html

For more information about abstracts, check the following website:
http://urc.ucdavis.edu/urc_writing.html