

American Literature - Research Report Basics

Directions: Read pages 444-456 in the *Language Network* book, and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use complete sentences, and restate the questions in your answer.

1. In the report entitled "The Real American Cowboy", how does the writer's opening question engage the reader?
2. What is the thesis of the report?
3. What is the name of the book the writer cites at the end of the third paragraph?
4. Name three characteristics of a good Works Cited page. (Six are named.)
5. What are the differences between primary and secondary sources?
6. How do you know if a source is reliable?
7. What kinds of biases might an author have?
8. Why is it important to use a wide variety of sources?
9. What is a source card? What kind of information should you include on a source card?
10. What information do you need for an online source that you don't need for a book or other print publication?
11. What kind of information about direct quotations (quotes) should you include in your notes?
12. What is paraphrasing?
13. When do you need to use quotation marks in a paraphrase?
14. Name three reasons you might want to quote rather than paraphrase.
15. What is plagiarism and how can you avoid it?
16. What is a thesis statement?
17. How do you support your thesis statement?
18. Name four things you should check to make sure you have a good thesis statement.
19. Name two ways you can organize your information for an outline.
20. Why is it important to outline?
21. What is the goal of your writing?
22. What kinds of information from your notes should you include in your paper?
23. Why does your report need to provide details?
24. How do you credit sources in your research report?
25. Which lines of your Works Cited page entries should you indent?

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