



4-H Briefs

Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

Rough Draft

FOCUS:

Communication- exchange of thoughts, information, or messages through writing

LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Writing using researched information

BACKGROUND:

When you begin writing your paper, give yourself plenty of time to get a good start. This first draft will be a rough one. You can go back and polish it later.

As you write your paper, you will use the information on your note cards. When you use information from a card, you must let the reader know where the information came from by *citing your sources*. Sources are cited for two reasons: to tell readers where your information comes from and to give credit to the writers from whom you have borrowed words and ideas. To borrow another writer's words and ideas without citing them is known as *plagiarism* (Hacker, 91).

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Computer (optional)

PROCEDURE:

Begin writing the rough draft of your paper. Your final paper should be about 3 to 5 pages in length and have at least three sources and at least five citations within the text. Keep the length in consideration as you begin writing. This is where you put together everything you found in your research. Remember to consider who the audience will be before beginning to write your paper, and don't forget to cite your sources.

DISCOVERY:

1. Was it difficult to actually begin writing your paper? Why or why not?
2. What problems did you encounter? What did you do to overcome these problems?
3. Why is it important to document your sources while writing your paper?

PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- Discuss the impact that organizing your information and ideas had on beginning the writing process.
- Explain what *plagiarism* is and how and why you should avoid doing it.

TRY THIS:

Keep a list of all the various sources you use in your paper so that you can talk to your English teacher about the proper form to cite these sources in your paper as well as on the works cited page.

When you have completed the rough draft, have someone such as you parents, 4-H Club leader, or English teacher read over it and correct mistakes. Proofreading your work is extremely important!

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