

I-Search Essay

What is an I-Search essay?

An I-search essay is a new kind of research paper with an old kind of research. These essays are typically organized into the following four sections:

- What I Already Know (and don't know) about my Topic
- Why I Want to Answer this Question/Understand this Topic
- Story of the Search
- What I Learned (or failed to learn—failed searches also have value)

Come back to your original question here. Do you have an answer?

How will you write your own I-Search essay?

Choose a topic. Search. Dig deep. Then tell an honest story of your search using your own voice. Revise so your readers hear what you're saying. Revise so you gain clarity and understanding. Cut parts that lead readers astray. Edit for tone, transitions, and word choices. Don't worry—it's a process made up of small parts. It will come together.

How will you know what to write about?

You may write about anything you wish. Your paper could be driven by a question: Should I become an athletic trainer? What was my Grandma's life like in the 1950s? What kind of pet would be right for my family? How will epilepsy affect my niece's life? ...or just a topic: Oboe. HiV. Jellybeans. Superfoods. Marathons. PETA. Early Animation. You must choose a topic you care about or find fascinating or begin with a question you are anxious to answer.

Include a works cited page with **at least ten sources including at least one of each of the following: academic article, newspaper article, book, interview, credible website, film, poem or song.** (8-10 pgs)

What is expected, academically?

Write an engaging and well-developed narrative of your question and your search for the answer(s) to your question. Your writing should unfold clearly and logically (probably chronologically) and should respect the grammar, usage, and mechanics of standard written English. That said, you will be graded equally in three areas: Engaging the Reader; Clarity of Expression; Grammar, Usage & Mechanics.



How will you begin?

Ask a question. Just begin.

100 points

Check your syllabus for draft checkpoint dates and the final draft due date!