

Creating Research Paper Note Cards

(or “How I organized my research
and got an A in Mr. Forney’s class).

What are Note Cards, and why should I do them?

- Note cards are a simple way for you to gather and organize your research for easy access while writing your paper.
- Note cards also help you stay focused on information relating to your thesis!
- More importantly, creating note cards gives you practice in paraphrasing and summarizing information for your paper.

To Quote or Not to Quote, that is the Question...

- Direct quotations should be used sparingly! Use direct quotes only when necessary (and remember to cite properly when you do).
- A better idea is to *PARAPHRASE*, or restate in your own words.
- If the passage is too long to paraphrase or quote directly, summarize it!

How to Take Good Notes and Stay on Topic

- Make sure your source material is relevant!
 - Does it pertain to your topic?
 - Does it provide information concerning your thesis?
 - Is it appropriate for your audience (your teacher, in this case)
 - Did you gather it from a *reputable* source?
(Remember to avoid personal websites)

How to Take Good Notes and Stay on Topic (continued)

- Include only one thought per card
 - Make sure you include **only one thought per card.**
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 - (Do you get the idea that this is important?)

How to Take Good Notes and Stay on Topic (continued again)

- Make sure your paraphrases and summaries accurately reflect the ideas in your sources
- If you copy word for word, make sure you use quotation marks and cite your source!
- Refer back to your controlling idea (or thesis) often – only take notes on information that pertains to your thesis!
 - *If it doesn't pertain to your thesis, ditch it! (Or change your thesis...)*

How to Create a Note Card

(cont. again)

- Paraphrase or summarize your info. If you *must* copy the information word for word, use quotation marks.

Medical Experiments – freezing experiments	1
Scientists at Dachau stuck prisoners in vats of icy water to see how long they could last before passing out and dying.	

How to Create a Note Card

(one last time)

- After you have written down your information, write the page number of your source near the bottom right corner of your note card.

Medical Experiments – freezing experiments	1
Scientists at Dachau stuck prisoners in vats of icy water to see how long they could last before passing out and dying.	
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Plagiarism

(or how to write a really kick-butt paper and fail anyway)

- Plagiarism is the act of *intentionally* or *unintentionally* copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own. Don't do this!!! This would be bad...
- If you are caught intentionally plagiarizing someone else's work (or your sources), you could receive a big, fat **ZERO** for your paper grade. So don't do this. Ever. Period. Exclamation point.

The End

...or is it?

Tune in next week for
*“How creating an effective **Outline**
saved my life and lowered my
cholesterol.”*

