Tips for Writing a Research Paper

• Do not use the narrative voice in your paper—no first person pronouns (I think, my opinion, et al); your thesis should be about your topic & not yourself. Also, avoid plural pronouns: we, our, us.

• Never state “This paper will...” Your paper is actively pursuing your subject, so this is a redundant statement.

• A semicolon (;) is a great tool in writing. This punctuation mark joins two independent clauses on the same subject with no connecting words.

• Never, ever use the phrase “This article talks about...” Any written document explains, describes or argues; it will never say or talk about.

• Use strong and appropriate verbs.

• Numbers: 1-10 need to be spelled out. If a number begins a sentence, it also must be spelled out as well.

• When discussing time periods, do not use an apostrophe i.e. 1950s.

• Do not use etc. in your paper—ever. Writers can use i.e. (that is) or e.g. (for example).

• Avoid judgment. Statements such as Pandas are cool or The lying politicians do not convey detailed information, they are hollow judgments.

• Stay on topic to make your thesis obvious throughout the paper.

• Write with depth; avoid repetition.