

Research and Writing

Summary of the research and writing process

An EE is an authentic piece of work following the research process. Once you have chosen your RQ, you should:

- Undertake lots of preliminary reading on your chosen topic
- Gather as much evidence as possible from reliable and relevant secondary sources to begin to answer your working research question. You might need to refine the question as you continue to read.
- Analyse the information you have gathered so far to determine:
 - To what extent is the information from the various sources consistent?
 - What additional information do I need to answer my question?
- Continue to collect the information you need by primary or further secondary research
- Write your Introduction - but remember, you will probably want to go back and change that towards the end of the EE process
- And then - you begin to construct the body of your essay, which should be presented in the form of a reasoned argument.
- Compare/contrast the evidence collected from secondary sources with each other or with your findings from the primary research and formulate a conclusion that answers your research question.

Practice exercise: Planning your timeline

Organize the following statements into the correct sequence on the timeline arrow

- Collect resources or data
- Reflect on supervisor's comments
- Consult subject guide
- Undertake your *viva voce*
- Complete the last student comment section of the RPPF
- Prepare research question
- Submit the final essay
- Select preliminary sources
- Prepare title of research
- Write a first draft
- Select subject
- Select or be allocated a supervisor