

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU RESEARCH AND WRITE

General

1. In an essay, you will be arguing to promote a thesis statement. There will **always** be someone out there who will **dispute** what you have to say. Because of this, you have to be as convincing as possible when arguing that George W. Bush (GWB) was the greatest president in American history. A well written, convincing essay is made up of two components, your **EVIDENCE** and your **ANALYSIS**.
2. **Evidence** is the stuff that you take from third party, **CREDIBLE**, independent source material, and cite as (author and year). This is essential to promote your arguments and convince the reader that not only do you believe that GWB is great, but other people do to!
3. **Analysis** is your explanation to the reader of how the evidence furthers your **argument** that GWB is awesome. This is ultimately the **support** of your **thesis statement**.
4. So, you can't say that there is good proof or evidence of your arguments without supplying **examples** of it. So if there is no evidence that GWB is greater than great, it is kind of hard to prove it. Your opinion, in other words, is not enough.
5. Wiki Answers, Yahoo Answers, Straightdope.com, and any other forum websites = BAD!
 - a. These are non-academic and are **never** to be used as source material
6. Remember, if you don't have good research visible throughout your essay, you will not get a good mark. Visible research is the citations/bibliography part of your essay.

Citation Methodology (Parenthetical; References page)

1. An essay needs **BOTH** in text citations, quotations **AND** a References page.
2. Consistency is key throughout your essay. Never use a mix of footnotes and endnotes. Use one **OR** the other, not both. These are used sparingly and are to be used for additional material of interest not related to your main thesis.
3. Do not use classroom notes as source material. The material covered in class is always available elsewhere.
4. Remember if you take someone else's research or idea and use it in your essay it is known as **citing an author** and you must use a properly formatted citation by mentioning the author and year .
5. If you quote someone in your essay you are allowed a maximum of 500 words. Quotes of 40 words are considered short quotes and are handled differently in the text than quotes of greater than 40 words. Check the format.