

I-Search Essay

What is an I-Search essay?

A new kind of research paper with an old kind of research.

How will you write your own I-Search essay?

Tell an honest story of your search using your own voice. Revise so your reader can really hear what you're saying. Revise so you gain clarity and understanding. Cut parts that lead readers astray. Edit for tone and transitions. 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 will likely 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? You must choose a topic you care deeply about, and you must begin with a question you are anxious to have answered. Include a works cited page with at least five sources of at least three different types. (7-8 pages)

Your paper should be organized into 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?

What is expected, academically?

Write an engaging and well-developed narrative of your search for the answer(s) to your question. Your story 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!