

Writing a Research Paper



Writing

- The ability to express information in **clear, concise, and understandable** language
- The ability **to interpret and use** information communicated by others.
- This ability is **highly marketable** in today's competitive job market.

(Geffner, 2004)

You speak because you have

Something to
say: *a subject/
topic*

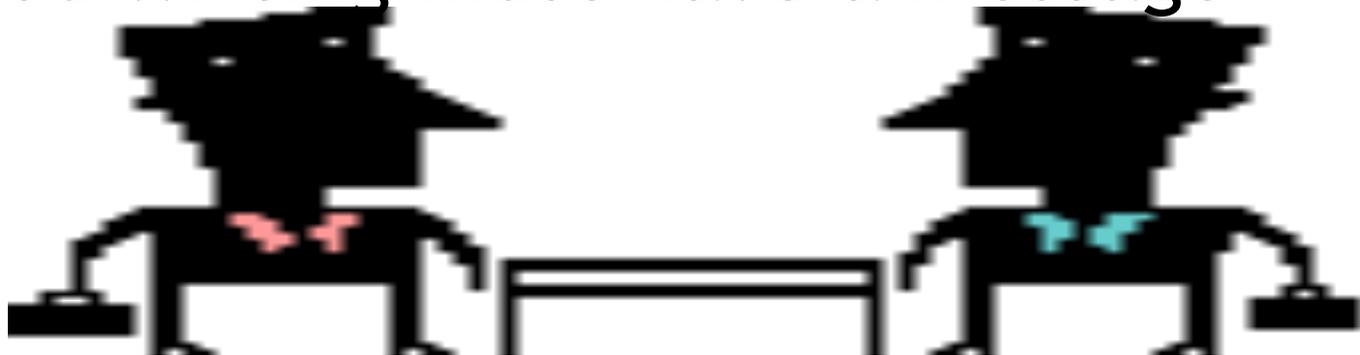
A reason for
saying it: *a
purpose*

Someone to
listen: *an
audience*



Communication

- Good writing reflects clear thinking
- Good writing reflects a clear purpose
- Good writing reflects a particular audience
- Good writing must have a message



FunnySign.com



Purpose

Writing without a clear purpose is like driving without a destination.

You'll get somewhere, but chances are it won't be the right place.

Decide what you need to know about your reader to meet common communication purposes



You should write with a reason in mind, and you can better evaluate what is being said by determining what that reason is. Your reason for writing is also call the purpose of a selection. Three common purposes are as follows:

» To **P**ersuade

» To **I**nform

» To **E**ntertain



P I E

Begin to Define the Topic

- Collect notes or check with teacher or other students to discuss ideas
- Organize the list into a logical outline or graphic organizer
- Write a thesis statement (controlling idea) for the document

The **topic** is the **subject** of a paragraph.

The **main idea** is a **general idea** that **summarizes** what most of a paragraph is about.

Main Idea

It is the **primary point** about a topic; all the other material in the paragraph fits under the main idea.

The **other material** is supporting **details**—examples, reasons, facts, and other evidence.

Categories for Details

R
E
F
S
N
N
D
Q

= Reasons

= Examples

=Facts

=Senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste)

= Names

=Numbers (statistics)

=Definitions

=Quotations



Writing

- Paragraph 1 is the introduction
 - State the **thesis statement** (**controlling idea**) in the form of a statement (**Central Point**)
 - State **three main ideas** that support the central point
- Paragraph 2 includes the **first main idea** and details
- Paragraph 3 includes the **second idea** and details
- Paragraph 4 includes the **third idea** and details
- Paragraph 5 is the **conclusion**
 - Restate** the central idea in a **summary** statement
 - Review** the three main ideas



How Should An Essay Look?

- **INTRODUCTION**

Gives the (thesis statement) controlling idea

- **BODY**

Major point

Major point

Major point

- **CONCLUSION**

Summarizes or emphasizes the controlling idea

Analysis of a Paper

Employers are looking to hire the best employees they can find for the open positions in their companies. They are interviewing individuals with specific skills. Some of these skills are the potential employee's ability to work with people, the employee's critical thinking/problem solving skills, and the employee's leadership potential. According to the latest research, as employers search for employees for their companies, they typically are looking for these particular skills in these workers.

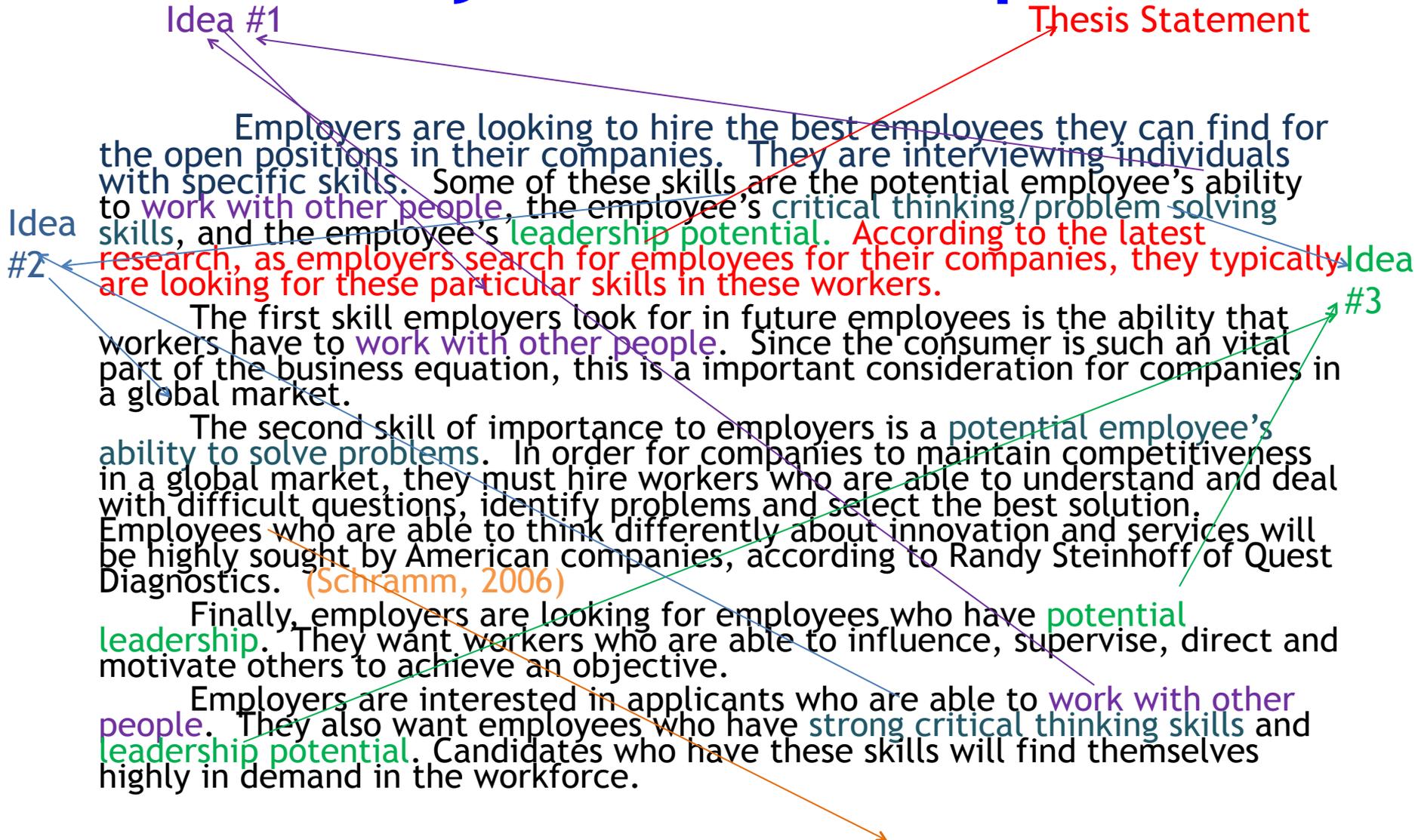
The first skill employers look for in future employees is the ability that workers have to work with other people. Since the consumer is such an vital part of the business equation, this is a important consideration for companies in a global market.

The second skill of importance to employers is a potential employee's ability to solve problems. In order for companies to maintain competitiveness in a global market, they must hire workers who are able to understand and deal with difficult questions, identify problems and select the best solution. Employees who are able to think differently about innovation and services will be highly sought by American companies, according to Randy Steinhoff of Quest Diagnostics. (Schramm, 2006)

Finally, employers are looking for employees who have potential leadership. They want workers who are able to influence, supervise, direct and motivate others to achieve an objective.

Employers are interested in applicants who are able to work with other people. They also want employees who have strong critical thinking skills and leadership potential. Candidates who have these skills will find themselves highly in demand in the workforce.

Analysis of a Paper



In text citation in APA format

References (APA format)

Schramm, J.J. (2006). Desirable Attributes of Employees. Houston Chronicle, p.A24.

Retrieved January 31, 2009 from online DNEW database.

Strategy Instruction

POWER Writing Strategy

- Plan -- Predict who will read this. List the title, main ideas, and details.
- Organize-- Decide which main idea to write about first, second, etc. & note order. For each main idea, note the order for presenting the details. Make sure the orders are logical.
- Write -- Introduce the topic and main ideas in the first paragraph. Use cues to signal ideas. Write about each main idea in the following paragraphs: explain with details.
- Edit -- Read if out loud to someone. Conference with a peer for feedback. Check to see if each sentence makes sense and if it's complete. Check for spelling and punctuation errors.
- Revise -- Copy your paper over neatly. Check to see if the overall paper makes sense. Check once again for errors.

Sports

Pro amateur watching playing indoor outdoor good exercise

Playing Sports

Tennis baseball basketball track/field swimming golf soccer

Tennis

Scoring doubles indoor/outdoor equipment benefits surfaces

Tennis Equipment

Clothing courts shoes balls rackets nets equipment bags

Topic for essay: Compare/contrast the types of tennis courts



How to Narrow a Topic

- Write the general or broad topic at the top of a piece of paper
- List some of the more-specific subtopics under the topic
- Choose one of those topics you have listed and write it in the center of the page
- Break this subtopic into more-specific subtopics
- Continue this process until you have narrowed the information
- Choose the specific topic that meets your needs for a particular writing assignment



Dogs



Types history traits illnesses

Types

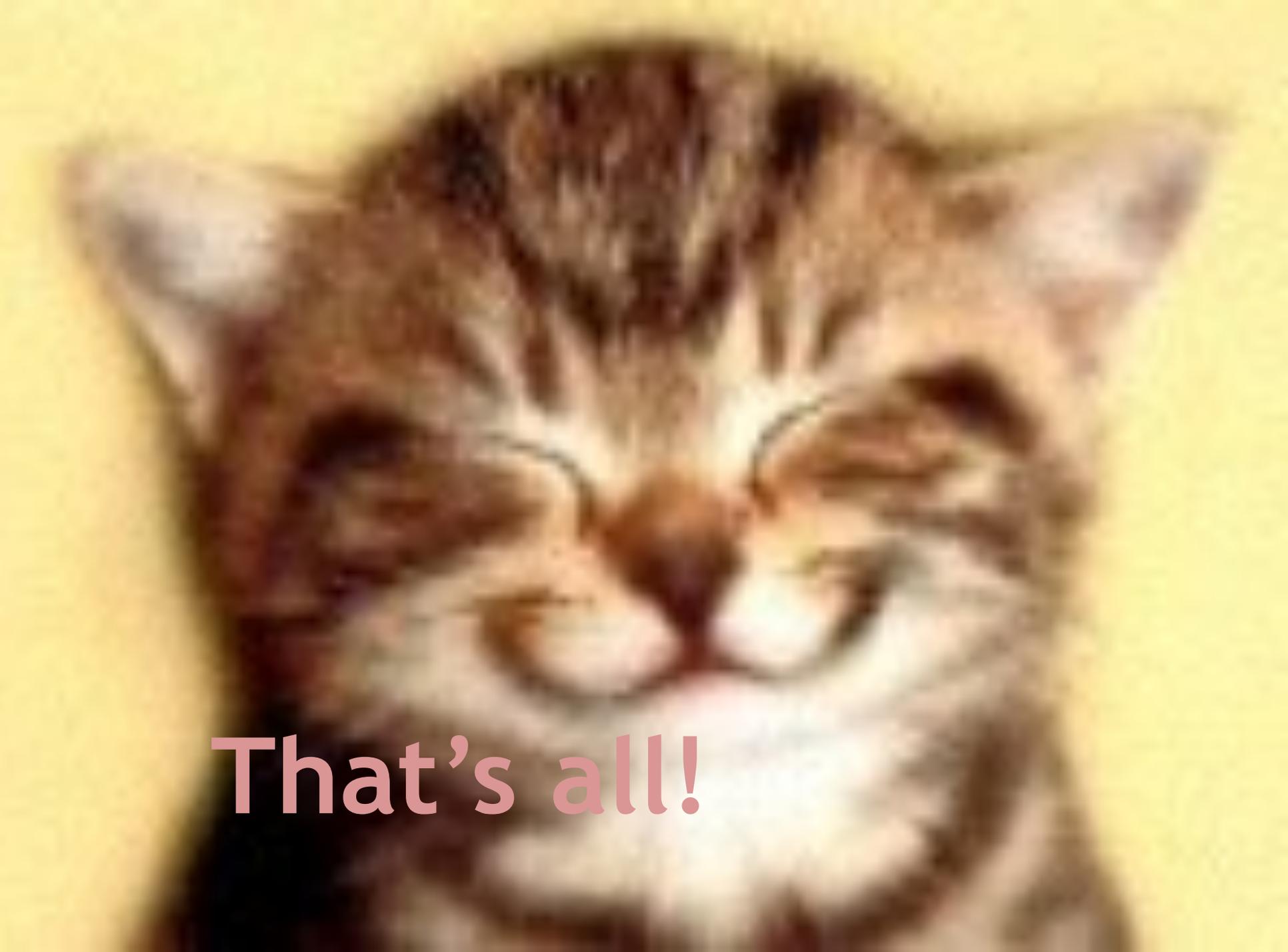
Working lap long/short fur good with kids

Working

Guard guide service drug film champions

Topic: Describe three kinds of working dogs.





That's all!

Documenting Sources: Using APA Format

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