

The Research Plan

Make sure you fill out completely *all* the information in the sections below. Failure to complete these sections fully and honestly may incur a loss of points. Responding to some questions with “no” or “n/a” or “I don’t know yet” *is* acceptable; however, leaving any responses blank is not. If you do not understand any questions, you are encouraged to contact your instructor.

Section 1

Name: Hind Alharmoodi

Your Major: Civil Engineering

Section 2

On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident do you feel about writing for this course?

1/ 8.5. I feel confident about writing a research paper for this course since I have had experience composing a research paper in school and in my previous writing courses. However, since I did not write an argumentative research paper before, I have some doubts that will hopefully be resolved by the methods and tips delivered in this course.

Section 3

Based on your experience from your previous writing course and from the lessons you have received so far in ENG 204, what **three** things have you given extra care and attention towards for this assignment?

1/ I tend to use hedging words and phrases to avoid harsh claims.

2/ I continuously use transitional words and phrases to connect between ideas.

3/ I tend to ensure that my paper, especially citations, follows APA format.

Section 4

Working Topic: (e.g., smoking)

Homeschooling

1/

Working Research Question: (e.g., Is smoking beneficial?)

Does homeschooling negatively affect students' lives?

1/

Working Secondary Questions

You may not have any secondary questions yet – but have a go at writing what some may be. At least, you'll get some feedback from the instructor.

How, why, ... you can write one, two ..

(Examples: What are the benefits of smoking?)

1/ What are the methods implemented to strengthen the socialization of homeschooled students?

2/ What could aid families in providing a higher quality education in homeschooling?

3/ How could homeschooled students' self-esteem be nurtured?

Working Thesis: (e.g., Smoking is beneficial.)

Write your opinion.

1/ Homeschooling does not have a negative impact on students' lives.

Working Counter Theses: (e.g., 1/ Smoking is not beneficial. 2/ Smoking may have some benefits, but it has more drawbacks. 3/ Smoking may be beneficial but only when combined with other practices. 4/ Smoking may be beneficial for some people but not for others. Etc.)

1/ Homeschooling negatively affects students' academic performance.

2/ Homeschooled students lack socialization.

Working Supporting Arguments: (e.g., [Smoking is beneficial because ...] 1/ smoking makes you look cool. 2/ smoking helps you lose weight.)

1/ Homeschooled students socialize with people in various ways.

2/ Advancements in online platforms aid parents in educating their children effectively.

3/ Homeschooling is not detrimental to student's self-esteem, which may be developed by participating in activities.

Working Counter Arguments: (e.g., [Smoking is *not* beneficial because ...] because 1/ smoking causes serious diseases. 2/ cigarette smoke is very smelly. 3/ smoking not only harms the smoker, it harms other people in the environment of the smoker.)

1/ Parents do not follow a system or a curriculum in homeschooling their students.

2/ Homeschooled students do not get enough interaction with their peers.

3/ I do not know yet.

Write Your Paper Below

Begin your paper at the start of the next page. Note that APA Level 1 headers have been provided. Write appropriate paragraphs within these prescribed areas. Remember to leave the rubric at the end of the paper.

Working Topic

The topic of the research paper is homeschooling. According to de Beer, Vos, and Myburgh (2020), homeschooling is defined as a teaching method in which parents hold the responsibility of educating their children. Homeschooling is increasing in several countries world wide, where homeschooled students in the United States (US) are about one-fifth the number of private school admissions (Belfield 2004b; Isenberg 2007, as cited in Murphy, 2014). In addition, 75,000 Russian students are homeschooled students that make up 0.5% of the total number of children (Shamolina, as cited in de Beer et al. 2020).

This research will not focus on one region since homeschooling is present in several countries like the US, South Africa, China, and Russia (de Beer et al., 2020). Despite the growth in the practice of homeschooling, many contradicting opinions still exist on its effectiveness in terms of its effects on student development. Some people believe that homeschooled students do not possess social skills. Others may argue that parents do not have the potential to provide an adequate education for their children.

By contrast, I argue that homeschooled students' lives are not negatively influenced by homeschooling. It might be difficult to contradict the stereotype known concerning homeschooled students' lack of social interaction and low academic performance. However, research has shown that homeschooled students' academic performance, social skills, and self-esteem are similar to their peers educated in traditional schools (Murphy, 2014). The research results may be a consequence of parents' involvement in ensuring homeschooled students' engagement in social activities. Furthermore, the education quality parents provide in homeschooling may be enhanced by having access to useful sources, such as teaching classes and education programs. Thus, there might be no problems associated with executing my thesis.

Brief Introduction

As a conventional school graduate who never met a homeschooled student, this topic captured my attention due to my lack of knowledge in this subject. Before conducting preliminary research, I concurred with the stereotype suggesting that homeschooled students lack socialization and are not educated to school standards. However, as I surfed through various sources, I found articles and interesting studies that demonstrate the contrary. Consequently, my curiosity has increased towards the influence of homeschooling on the students' academic and social development. This topic is relevant to this course, for it is a debatable topic. Furthermore, several peer-reviewed articles are available to support my thesis.

The research paper's audience might be people interested in the education and psychology fields eager to learn about homeschooled students' development. Furthermore, people in contrast with my thesis might be curious about my side of the argument. It is significant to be aware that homeschooling does not impede students' development academically and socially, which may result in neglecting their contributions to society. Recognizing the efforts of everyone equally would create a better community.

Research Questions and Methods

My research question is: Does homeschooling negatively affect students' lives? To explore this question further, I am going to answer the following secondary questions:

- 1) What are the methods implemented to strengthen the socialization of homeschooled students?
- 2) What could aid families in providing a higher education quality in homeschooling?
- 3) How could homeschooled students' self-esteem be nurtured?

These secondary questions will aid in determining how homeschooled students' academic performance, social skills, and self-esteem are not negatively influenced by homeschooling.

The counterarguments I will consider are claims on the lack of social interaction in homeschooled students' lives and experiences that increase children's self-esteem. In addition, some might argue that homeschooled students do not meet educational standards. Secondary sources will be used to support my thesis and refute the counterarguments. These sources will include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles that include studies and interviews. Some of these sources will be from Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), JSTOR, and Google Scholar databases, among others.

References

de Beer, L., Vos, D., & Myburgh, J. (2020). Homeschooling in the BRICS members states: A comparative study. *BCES Conference Books*. 18. 49-55. ERIC.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED608376.pdf>

Medlin, R. (2013). Homeschooling and the question of socialization revisited. *Peabody Journal of Education*. 88(3). 284-297. [https://www-jstor-](https://www-jstor-org.aus.idm.oclc.org/stable/42001763?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

[org.aus.idm.oclc.org/stable/42001763?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents](https://www-jstor-org.aus.idm.oclc.org/stable/42001763?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

Murphy, J. (2014). The social and educational outcomes of homeschooling, *Sociological Spectrum*, 34(3), 244-272. [https://www-tandfonline-](https://www-tandfonline-com.aus.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1080/02732173.2014.895640)

[com.aus.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1080/02732173.2014.895640](https://www-tandfonline-com.aus.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1080/02732173.2014.895640)

The first source listed above, "Homeschooling in the BRICS Members States: A Comparative Study," includes a comparative study on homeschooling in five BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This article also provides a relevant definition of homeschooling. In addition, it states how authorities deal with homeschooling in some of those countries. The article also provides parents' challenges due to the unrecognition of

homeschooling in some of BRICS countries. I am planning to use this source to provide background information about homeschooling.

In the second article, Medlin (2013) includes comments and reviews on several research studies conducted by comparing homeschooled and conventionally schooled students. The comparisons discussed are social skills, quality of relationships, happiness, life satisfaction, and social engagement. This source will be used to support my argument on homeschooled students' socialization.

In the third article, "The Social and Educational Outcomes of Homeschooling," Murphy (2014) argues that students' academic achievement and social development are not deteriorated by homeschooling. He analyses various research performed by other scholars on homeschooled students in the academic and social aspects. The author expresses students' social development in terms of social engagement, self-concept, self-esteem, and social skills. Therefore, the information presented in this article will help support my arguments. In addition, Murphy also lists few counterarguments that I might consider.

Planning

I decided to divide the work on a weekly basis, for I have commitments to other courses every week. These commitments include assignments, classwork, and quizzes that require preparation.

Week 4	Organize the ideas that I already have. Conduct some more research to have a clear vision of the arguments and counter arguments. Start working on the Research proposal.
--------	---

Week 5	Start working on the introduction on Saturday. I have a Theory of Structures midterm on Tuesday. Therefore, working on the introduction will be continued on Wednesday. Finish the introduction by the end of the week.
Week 6	Start working with the background information. If possible, finish working on the background information by the end of the week. Take into consideration that the research proposal is due on the same week.
Week 7	Start working on two supporting arguments. Review and check with a tutor to ensure that I am heading in the right direction. Pause work to study for three consecutive midterms scheduled in Week 8.
Week 8	Finish working on the two supporting arguments by the end of the week.
Week 9	Hopefully, finish all supporting arguments since the previous week was spring break. In addition, work on the counterarguments. Finish a major part of the research. Meet with a tutor. Keep in mind that the working draft is due on the same week.
Week 10	Review the finished paragraphs. Check with the professor and the tutor for comments. Edit the research paper based on the remarks. Since I will have a midterm on Tuesday, working on the remaining part of the research paper will continue by the end of the week. In addition, the progress report is due on the same week which will consume time.
Week 11	Work on the remaining part of the research paper.
Week 12	A midterm is scheduled on Tuesday that requires preparation at the beginning of the week. Therefore, hopefully, finish the research paper with minor things left by the end of the week.

Week 13	<p>Finish the research paper by the start of the week. Review and meet with a tutor.</p> <p>Obtain peer review. Edit the paper based on the comments of the tutor and reviewer. This will be done by the end of the week since a midterm is scheduled on Tuesday.</p>
Week 14	<p>Check with the professor and tutor for comments. Final review of the research paper. Final Paper Due.</p>

Checklist

Before submitting, write “YES” for each of the items below. If this section has not been completed in full then your paper will need to be resubmitted as LATE (incurring the usual 10% late penalties).

1/ I have read the rubric, and included all the information required in the pages above.

YES

2/ I have pressed spellcheck/grammar check and corrected any text as appropriate.

YES

3/ I have carefully read *out loud* my entire paper and corrected issues where appropriate.

YES

4/ I have named the file for submission as follows: Research Plan [my iLearn name]

For example: Research Plan Philip Michael McCarthy

YES

5/ The file I am submitting is a Microsoft Word document.

YES

