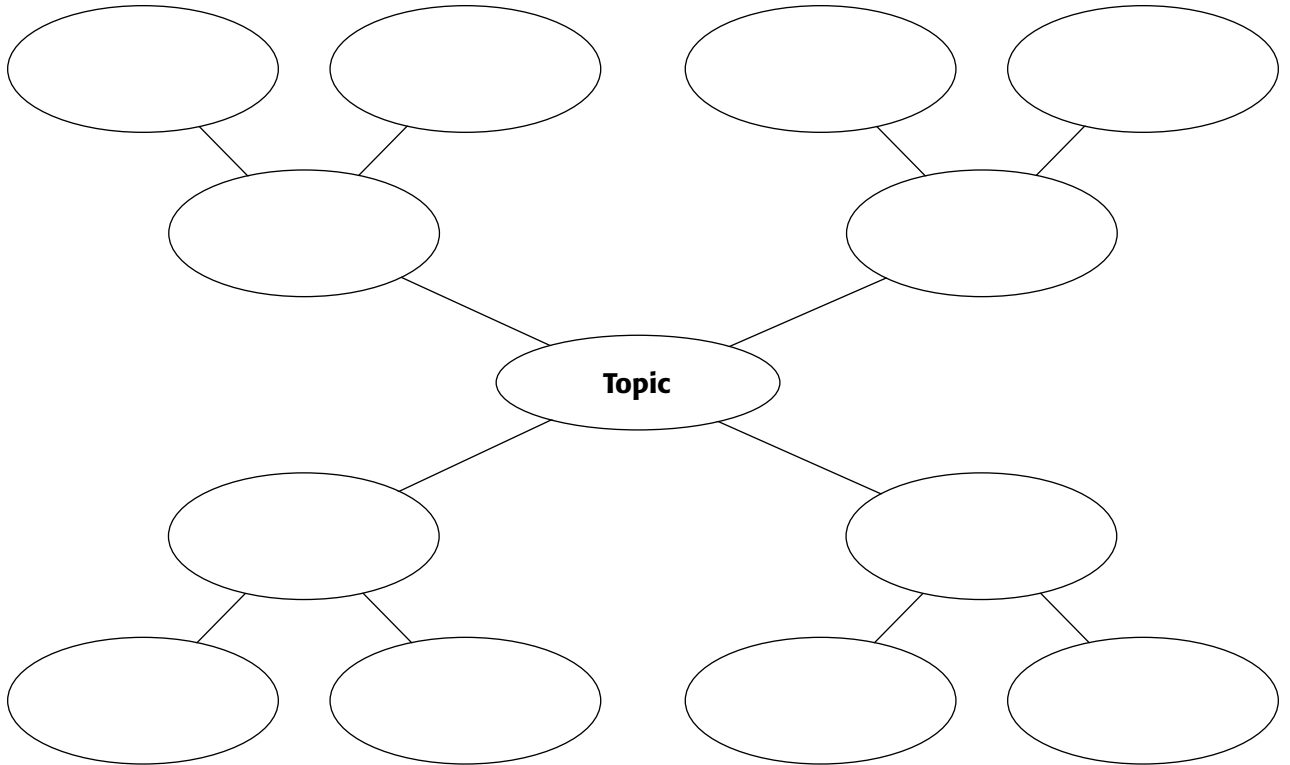


## Research Report

### Prewriting

After you have chosen a topic for your research report, you will need to focus on a particular aspect of it. Write your topic in the center of the cluster diagram below. Then write ideas related to the topic in the connecting circles. In the outer circles, write further ideas related to the first ones. When you have finished the diagram, choose one or two ideas to investigate.



Once you have done some investigating and have decided how you will focus your research report, you should write a clear purpose for the report in one sentence. This will be your thesis statement. Make sure that your thesis statement clearly states your topic and your purpose for writing the report.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis statement (complete sentence): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Research Report

---

### Drafting and Elaboration

The paragraph below is from the first draft of a student’s introduction to a research report. It does not have a specific thesis statement, and it does not include enough specific details. Improve the paragraph by following the Suggestions for Elaboration. You can use information from the Reader’s Notebook or add your own ideas. Write your paragraph on a separate sheet of paper.

#### Draft

This paper is about Ellis Island. Ellis Island is the United States immigration processing center. It is located in New York City, near the Statue of Liberty. It is the place where the government decided whether immigrants could stay in America or not. Now it is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. It has been restored and made into a museum. Many tourists visit it each day.

#### Suggestions for Elaboration

- Include a thesis statement that states both the topic and the purpose of the report.
- Add details such as statistics, facts, examples, or anecdotes.
- Capture readers’ attention with an interesting or startling fact.
- Delete information that does not support the thesis statement.

#### READER’S NOTEBOOK

Ellis Island was open from 1892 to 1954. ■ While it was open, 12 million people were processed there. ■ People came to America wanting a new life. ■ They were willing to undergo any hardship. ■ They made sacrifices for their families. ■ Almost half of America’s population today is descended from someone who went through Ellis Island. ■ My own great-grandparents went through Ellis Island. ■ I wanted to explore what it must have been like to be processed there.

## **Research Report**

---

### **Peer Response Guide**

Because you are writing a research report, you must provide your readers with plenty of information about your subject. A reader may be able to tell you if you have enough information, or too much. To make sure that your research report is focused and thorough, ask a peer reviewer to read it and answer the following questions.

1. Are the topic and purpose of my report clear? How could I improve my thesis statement?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

2. Have I forgotten to credit sources from which I've directly quoted information? Which parts, if any, do not seem to be in my own words?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

3. Were any parts of my report confusing? How could I make those parts clearer?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

**Peer Response Guide continued**

4. What did you learn about my topic? What more would you like to know about it?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

5. Have I included research that does not support my topic? What, if anything, should be taken out?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

6. Does my conclusion summarize the report? How could I improve my last paragraph?

***Response:***

***Suggestions for Revision:***

## Research Report

---

# Revising, Editing, and Proofreading

### Revising

#### TARGET SKILL ► Paraphrasing Quotations

As you revise your research report, ask yourself the following questions:

- Are most of my facts paraphrased rather than quoted directly from my sources?
- Have I chosen direct quotations that are unique, powerful, and/or clear?
- Does my research support my thesis statement?
- Are my ideas logically organized?
- Have I summarized my main points in my conclusion?

### Editing and Proofreading

#### TARGET SKILL ► Subordinate Clause Fragments

Use the suggestions given below to revise and proofread the following paragraph from the rough draft of one student's research report. Correct errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling using proofreading marks. Then copy your corrected draft onto a separate sheet of paper.

- Be sure to correct any subordinate clause fragments. A subordinate clause must be joined to a main clause to form a complete sentence.
- Capitalize proper nouns.
- Fix illogical shifts in verb tense.
- Make sure each verb agrees with its subject in number.

#### Draft

Because conditions was so severe at ellis island. The government was working hard to improve them. Still, the 350 government employees often could not handle all the people arriving each day. Many people have to wait, either on their ship or in dormitories. Since the government had written quota laws. More people was told to return to their countries.

### Applying

Now edit and proofread your own research report. Refer to the bulleted list above.

## Research Report

# Strong Student Model

### Journey Through Ellis Island

My great-grandmother came to this country from Ireland when she was 18 years old. She paid about \$25 for her passage on a crowded steamship. After the long journey, she still had to wait for the U.S. Government to decide whether she would stay in America or be sent back to Ireland. After learning this, I decided to research exactly what happened to the many people who passed through the immigration processing center on Ellis Island.

My great-grandmother was one of about 12 million people to be processed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954. (SL/EIF) She had to undergo a series of interviews, tests, and inspections in order to be declared medically and mentally sound. If there had been a problem, officials would have marked it in chalk on her clothing, and held her back for further inspection. If the problem was medical, she would have been sent to the hospital. If cured, she would have been allowed to enter the United States. If not, she would have had to go back home to Ireland. (Reef 11–12)

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum opened in 1990 as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. My father donated money to the museum and now my great-grandmother's name is carved on the American Immigrant Wall of Honor. One day I hope to make the journey to Ellis Island to see it for myself. There I would pay my respects to all the immigrants who went through a difficult and frightening ordeal for a better life. As my great-grandmother once wrote in a letter to a friend back in Ireland, "The horror of the passage only sweetened the taste of freedom when I finally set foot in America."

#### Works Cited

- "Ellis Island Immigration Museum." New York: The Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation (SL/EIF).  
 <<http://ellisland.org/ellis.html>>
- Reef, Catherine. Ellis Island. New York: Macmillan, 1991.

1. States topic and purpose of research report in a clear thesis statement

3. Presents information from multiple sources. This shows that the writer has done adequate research on the topic.

5. Uses information from both primary and secondary sources. The quote from the letter summarizes the experiences of many immigrants and creates a satisfying conclusion.

Another Option:  
 • Conclude by telling readers how get more information about Ellis Island or the American Immigrant Wall of Honor.

2. Credits sources of information

4. The conclusion summarizes the main point of the report, which is the hardship that immigrants endured to come to America.

6. Includes a Works Cited list at the end of the report

## Research Report

### Average Student Model

#### Ellis Island

Ellis Island is the United States immigration processing center. It is located in New York, near the Statue of Liberty, and was active between the years 1892 and 1954. Now the only people to go through it are tourists. But in the early part of the 20th century, the people who went through it were not tourists. They were frightened and excited immigrants from other countries who hoped to become new citizens of America. Whether that would happen or not was decided on Ellis Island. In this report, I will try to describe what that experience was like.

"Between 1892 and 1954, 12 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island." (SL/EIF) The peak years were between 1900 and 1915, the largest being 1907 during which 1,150,000 people went through Ellis Island. Immigrants had to have interviews, tests, and inspections before they could enter the United States. If there was a problem, officials marked it in chalk on the person's clothing and held him or her back for further inspection. If the problem could not be solved, the person would have to go back home. (ICN)

Descendants of those 12 million brave people make up almost half of our current population. (SL/EIF) I am one of them. My great-grandparents came from Ireland. They both went through Ellis Island. I am grateful for all that they went through, for I would not be here if they had not done so in order to make a better life for themselves and their families in America. I have read a letter that my great-grandmother once wrote, and in it she said that tasting the freedom in America made all the suffering worthwhile.

#### Works Cited

"Ellis Island Immigration Museum." New York: The Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation (SL/EIF).  
<<http://ellisland.org/ellis.html>>

"Historical Overview." Ellis Island: Through America's Gateway. International Channel Networks (ICN).  
<<http://www.ichannel.com/features/ellis/overview.html>>

1. States topic and purpose in a thesis statement. However, the writer self-consciously says "I will try to describe" the experience. The statement should be more certain and specific.

3. Presents information from multiple sources, but all are Internet sites. It would be better to have some different types of sources.

5. Uses information from both primary and secondary sources. However, a direct quotation from the letter would have been more interesting.

2. Credits sources of information. However, this bland quotation should have been paraphrased. It adds nothing to the report.

4. The conclusion summarizes the main point of the report.

6. Includes a Works Cited list at the end of the report

## Response to Literature

### Weak Student Model

#### Ellis Island

1. Lacks a thesis statement. The introduction should state the topic and purpose of the report.

This paper is about Ellis Island, the United States immigration processing center. It is located in New York City, near the statue of liberty. It was open from 1892 to 1954. It is the place where the government decided whether immigrants could stay in America or not. While it was open 12 million people were processed on Ellis Island. Now it has been restored and made into a museum. The Museum offers visitors a fascinating look at the total immigrant experience, using innovative displays that feature historic artifacts and photos, interactive devices, computers and taped reminiscences of the immigrants themselves.

2. This sentence is obviously not in the student's own words. Direct quotations must appear in quotation marks with a source credit.

3. Ideas are not presented in a logical order. A transition is needed between the first two paragraphs.

It must have been exciting to finally be in America. The immigrants were frightened and confused. Because they felt they were being herded like cattle. They were hungry, thirsty, and tired from the trip. They had almost no possessions. Most could not speak English, and with little money. They were terrified of being told they had to go back home. They wanted to stay in this country.

4. Here, the writer credits a source of information, but the style is incorrect. The rest of this paragraph contains two fragments and a run-on sentence.

The writer has also included a subordinate clause fragment beginning with Because.

The peak years were 1900 and 1915. The largest year was 1907. 1,150,000 people went through Ellis Island that year. (page 48 of Benton book) Many people wanted to immigrate to America. Especially from Europe. This was a lot for government employees to handle that number of people arriving each day many people had to wait. Either on the ship or in Ellis Island Dormitories.

5. The conclusion is too general and bland. It should summarize the main point of the report and show new learning.

In conclusion, immigrants had to go through Ellis Island. They came to this country to make a better life for themselves in America, and that is what they had to do to get here. It was probably worth it.

#### Works Cited

- Benton, Barbara, Ellis Island: a Pictorial History. 1985, Facts on File, Inc., New York.  
 Reef, Catherine, Ellis Island. Macmillan, 1991.

6. Includes a Works Cited list, but the entries are not formatted correctly. Also, the report never refers to the Reef book.

## Research Report

### Rubric for Evaluation

<b>Ideas and Content</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Strong</b>
1. States topic and purpose in a clear thesis statement			
2. Uses evidence from primary and secondary sources			
3. Presents information from multiple sources			
4. Summarizes ideas in the conclusion			

<b>Structure and Form</b>			
5. Follows a logical pattern of organization with transitions between ideas			
6. Credits sources of information			
7. Includes a Works Cited list at end of report			

<b>Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics</b>			
8. Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation			
9. Uses correct grammar and usage			

#### Writing Progress to Date (Writing Portfolio)

The strongest aspect of this writing is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The final version shows improvement over the rough draft in this way: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A specific improvement over past assignments in your portfolio is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A skill to work on in future assignments is \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_