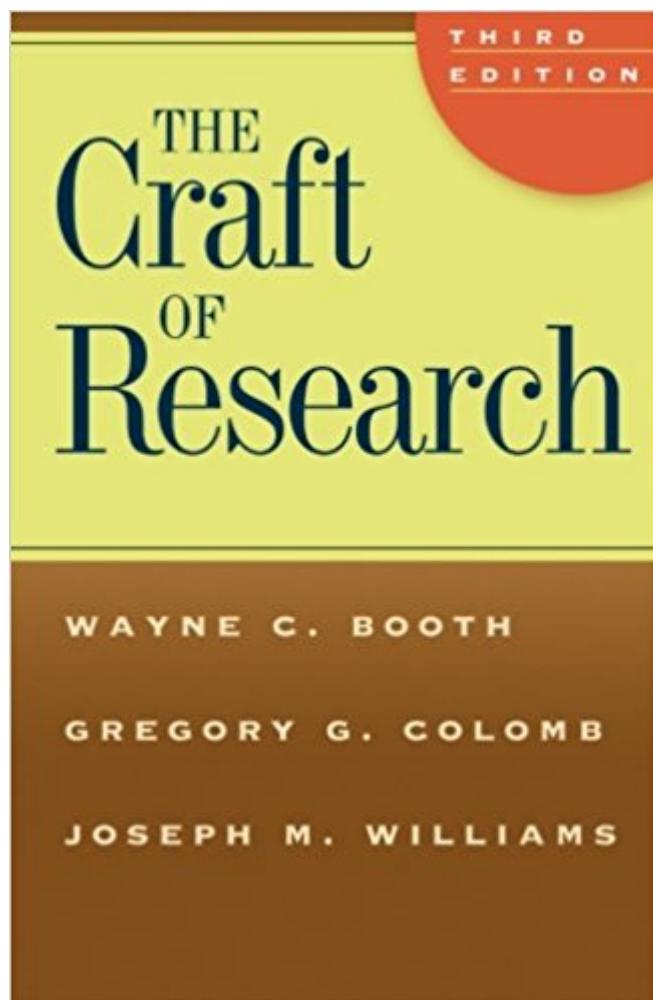


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The Craft Of Research, Third Edition (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)



Synopsis

With more than 400,000 copies now in print, *The Craft of Research* is the unrivaled resource for researchers at every level, from first-year undergraduates to research reporters at corporations and government offices. Seasoned researchers and educators Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams present an updated third edition of their classic handbook, whose first and second editions were written in collaboration with the late Wayne C. Booth. *The Craft of Research* explains how to build an argument that motivates readers to accept a claim; how to anticipate the reservations of readers and to respond to them appropriately; and how to create introductions and conclusions that answer that most demanding question, "So what?" The third edition includes an expanded discussion of the essential early stages of a research task: planning and drafting a paper. The authors have revised and fully updated their section on electronic research, emphasizing the need to distinguish between trustworthy sources (such as those found in libraries) and less reliable sources found with a quick Web search. A chapter on warrants has also been thoroughly reviewed to make this difficult subject easier for researchers. Throughout, the authors have preserved the amiable tone, the reliable voice, and the sense of directness that have made this book indispensable for anyone undertaking a research project.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A well-constructed, articulate reminder of how important fundamental questions of style and

approach, such as clarity and precision, are to all research. • Times Literary Supplement (Times Literary Supplement) “An easy-to-read guide with helpful hints for almost anyone who puts words to paper.” • San Francisco Bay Guardian (San Francisco Bay Guardian) “Accessible, readable and jargon-free. . . . The Craft of Research pays close attention to readers’ needs and anxieties.” • Teaching in Higher Education (Teaching in Higher Education)

Wayne C. Booth (1921–2005) was the George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago. His many books include *The Rhetoric of Fiction* and *For the Love of It: Amateurs and Its Rivals*, both published by the University of Chicago Press. Gregory G. Colomb is professor of English language and literature at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *Designs on Truth: The Poetics of the Augustan Mock-Epic*. Joseph M. Williams is professor emeritus in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*. Together Colomb and Williams have written *The Craft of Argument*. Booth, Colomb, and Williams coedited the seventh edition of Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

I have used *Craft of Research* in my undergraduate and graduate research methods courses for several years. The writing is clear and direct. The examples are plentiful. The organization is perfect for instruction. It opens with the question "Why do we do research?" Because everything we know of the world outside of our own experience is based upon the reports of research by others. Chapters 1 and 3 are essential. Why write up research reports? To understand, remember, and test our thinking. What is the researcher's purpose in sharing results: I found some new and interesting information, I found a solution to a practical problem, and here's something that might entertain you. The book opens with the exploratory phase of moving from a general interest to problems, topics, and research questions. This isn't a methods book, so I usually pause at that point as we experiment with a variety of methods, but we return to *Craft of Research* as we begin writing up the results, creating visual displays of data, and assembling the report. Chapters 7-11 are particularly important in understanding how to write persuasive, convincing arguments, support them with data, and address potential rebuttals from resistant readers. The only criticism that I have is that the discussion of ethics is in an appendix rather than a featured chapter. Otherwise, I wholeheartedly recommend this book.

This book was an essential element during my five years of doctoral study and the dissertation process. I found it to be one of the "must haves" for my reference library and would strongly recommend it to any grad student, but especially for doctoral students.

This text was required for my thesis class during my masters' program. Parts of it are redundant to folks who have already done a few research projects, and the authors could have done a better job of maintaining two or three illustrations throughout the book. (Instead, they jump around between various theoretical topics, which undercuts the point of explaining how to develop on topic from concept to completion.) Still, it is full of tips and useful advice. As a student with some experience conducting research, it was pleasant to see the various habits I had developed either confirmed or corrected. If you're just starting out in the Academy, this is a helpful resource.

We all respect scientists--even budding science students--for their commitment to accuracy and objectivity. Sometimes our strengths are also our weaknesses. Beginning scientists can naively believe that their writing only needs to report the facts, that anything further is bias, sophistry or even dishonesty. This book lays out the path to a better writing style. Readers will learn how to arrange and present their facts and evidence as coherent arguments. As a result, they will better serve their own readers. The table of contents, outlined below, shows that the authors cover more than putting fingers to keyboard. Introductory chapters discuss the perspective and information needs of readers and how to connect with them. The authors address development of one's own authentic authorial "voice"--a topic often neglected in books about research writing. The next four chapters teach us how to conceptualize a research question, then find relevant and credible sources of information to answer it. The third edition contains a needed revision of the authors' earlier avoidant stance on the credibility of web-based information, containing good guidance for weeding flakey from factual online sources. Chapter 7, "Making Good Arguments: An Overview," is the keystone chapter and a relatively quick read at eleven pages. It's where to focus when deciding whether to read the rest of the book. The authors define their working vocabulary of arguments, reasons, evidence, claims and warrants. In this and the following four chapters they show us how to use these concepts to present our points and how to acknowledge and respond to positions with which we disagree. They demonstrate how to do this with integrity as well as skill. The final six chapters address the actual writing of a research report. Much of the advice on planning, drafting and revising is standard and consistent with other writing guides. Some, such as advice on

graphical presentation of data, is an overview of information covered more thoroughly in other books (e.g., Tufte's "Envisioning Information"). But there is also a great deal of guidance on revising and fine-tuning arguments that is unique to these authors and their framework of written arguments. The closing chapter on style will help writers create clear and understandable structure while following their own authorial style. Recognizing they have presented only an introductory measure of what good writers need to know, the authors close with a comprehensive bibliography of readings, both online and in print. This book, thoughtfully read and put into practice, is as good as a course in professional writing. Read it, underline in it, bend back the page corners, and keep it nearby when you write your next report. --Brief Table of ContentsI. Research, Researchers and Readers - 1. Thinking in Print: The uses of Research, Public and Private - 2. Connecting with Your Reader: (Re-)Creating YourselfII. Asking Questions, Finding Answers - 3. From Topics to Questions - 4. From Questions to a Problem - 5. From Problems to Sources - 6. Engaging SourcesIII. Making a Claim and Supporting It - 7. Making Good Arguments: An Overview - 8. Making Claims - 9. Assembling Reasons and Evidence - 10. Acknowledgements and Responses - 11. WarrantsIV. Planning, Drafting and Revising - 12. Planning - 13. Drafting Your Report - 14. Revising Your Organization and Argument - 15. Communicating Evidence Visually - 16. Introductions and Conclusions - 17. Revising Style: Telling Your Story ClearlyV. Some Last Considerations

I got this book because it was required for my class, but after reading the assigned readings, I decided I'm going to keep this book to help me write papers for the rest of my career as a student and even after. There are so many tips to help from forming a research topic all the way through the finished product. Highly recommended. Not too mention, it doesn't cost an arm and a leg ;)

Thoughtful. Detailed. Practical. Scholarly executed. This book teaches the craft to both teachers and students. This edition is ordered in a logical systematic way that artfully engages the reader. From a word choice to a warrant complex idea this book helps researchers make intelligent decisions in the process of perfecting the craft of research.

Just what my daughter needed for her class.

This was additional reading for a class. I don't really read these books but I must say this book was great. It shows you step by step how to write a research paper. It made it so easy I wasn't intimidated in writing one, and it shows you sentence and paragraph structure.

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