

Brandon Buchanan

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Cathy Whaley

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My Research Paper Process

The research paper involved a lot of work behind the process. The assignment itself was daunting and working on it was horrible. I chose the topic of net neutrality because the topic interested me, mainly because it dealt with computers, and if the topic deals with computers, it will definitely be easier for me to write it. I also chose net neutrality because it was an argumentative position, but not one that I knew completely about. Though I knew what net neutrality was and why there was an outcry for it, I learned more about the workings of quality of service, as well as new networks being built to revise or replace the current Internet technologies used today.

When I first looked for sources, I was surprised to find so much, but once I started to read them, I noticed that a lot of the material was the same as others. I had to dig deeper and read more into the article to find new and useful information. I used both the ACM database, which is a database of articles pertaining to computer science, and I also used LexisNexis, a more general database with magazine articles and newspapers. I also found articles from the Internet that I decided would fit well within the paper.

Even with the amount of information I gathered from looking, I was still short on information. When I started the paper, I decided that I did not want to use internet sources, but after coming across an article on Yahoo!, I decided that I should. The reason I wanted to use it was because it brought an new light to my paper. Instead of talking about keeping the Internet neutral, the article explain how the current Internet may not be enough for the transmission of

data of the future and that researchers were developing more global networks to advance or replace the current Internet. I made the decision to integrate Internet2 and Next Generation Internet into my paper at that point, which then gave me plenty of material and sources to choose from.

Once I began the paper, I would mostly write the first sentences to my main idea paragraphs. It was more like an outlining method of my paper rather than sitting down and writing it in a linear fashion. It helped me to get my main points down fast so that I would not forget them and then be able to elaborate on those points from there.

Of course, when I had to start stretching the paper out, I had no choice but to use a block quotes, but I wanted to make sure it fit well enough in the paper to ensure its proper use. I used as many sources as I could, but I eventually decided that adding any more material would probably be repetitious. I printed off drafts to help me see what I had written easier. I learned that in my last English class and it helps a lot because it is easier to mark changes and see what mistakes that I had made.

With my schedule that way it has been currently, I did a lot of work on the paper in smaller chunks. It was helpful to not have to do it all in an lengthy amount of time in one session, but it did drag out the time it took me to finish it, as well as the possibility of getting disorganized or forgetting what I was working on during the next session.

All in all, it was not that bad. The research paper helped me to refine my writing skills, which I will no doubt need later down the road. I also learned how to develop an argument better and also realize how it is possible to take two different stances on an argument, even when given the same information or sources.