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Writing In Political Science: A Practical Guide (4th Edition)



Synopsis

A complete resource for writing an effective paper, Diane Schmidt's latest edition of *Writing in Political Science* gives students a practical guide for writing and arguing about political events, ideas, passions and agendas. A collection of actual student essays shows you how to write your way to a better grade. After reading *Writing in Political Science* students will know how to:

- Choose and narrow a research topic
- Formulate a research agenda
- Quickly locate reputable information online
- Execute a study and write about your findings
- Use the vocabulary of political science discourse
- Follow the criteria used to evaluate student assignments when writing
- Apply your writing skills to an internship, civic engagement project, or work-study program
- Manage and preserve achievements for career development

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author's own research speciality appears to be survey-based research. While the book purports to apply to all subfields and research approaches in political science, it only works well for a narrow range of approaches. Shockingly, the author maintains that research papers should include no direct quotations! While these should not be overused, any paper that is serious about exploring ideas or documenting views must include numerous quotations to be acceptable. For the author's quantitatively-based papers her rule no doubt holds true, but she shouldn't generalize from her narrow experience. Although the author provides a decent treatment of many issues of argumentation in isolation, when she comments on actual sample papers she displays a

much-too-high tolerance of, or lack of recognition of, imprecision in language and sloppiness of argument. In the process, important writing points which should be stressed are missed. And, she sometimes displays a shocking lack of basic knowledge; for example, she claims that it is widely recognized that the Framers of the U.S. Constitution were influenced by John Stuart Mill, when in fact he wasn't even born until well after the Constitution was written! The efforts to provide guidance in identifying and narrowing research topics are appreciated, but don't go far enough. The book does do a good job of providing sample citations in various styles (although these are available from many sources), and provides a sample list of grading criteria which can be helpful. Overall, the usefulness of this book will vary greatly from one case to another; as an overall guide to writing in political science, it is of some help but falls short.

particularly on the outside (wrinkled cover)...but it was clean and is exactly what was required for my class at a fraction of the cost on campus or elsewhere. prompt delivery too

Simple easy-to-read, easy to follow format. Wish this was the 1st book I ever read for Political Science. So helpful!

Good condition good information and would recommend to others to buy as well Pages was in good condition and

Bought this book to help me with my papers, but I don't think it is useful. Difficult to find the right information. Very basic, examples don't go far enough. I would not recommend it.

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