

Research essays are made up of sub-topics. ENGL 1320 Brainstorming Ideas

Brainstorm as many as you can to start.

Time Investment

Initial investigation for each possible topic:
10 - 20 minutes each

Focused research for four sub-topics: the introduction and conclusion can be considered mini-sections, containing some research as well as orienting materials.

2 - 3 hours each

Drafting / revising each of your four sections.
2 - 3 hours each.

Organizing your sections into a suitable order. Include appropriate transition words & sentences.
2 - 3 hours each.

Revising: This depends on how well you've done the pre-writing up to now.
Two 1- hour sessions

Editing for grammar, usage & mechanics:
Two ½ - hour sessions



Lobster Fishing in Maine

10 Potential Sub-Topics

1. How and when lobster fishing first became an industry in Maine.
2. Description of a representative town where it's still a major part of the town's income & business.
3. A descriptive day-in-the-life of a lobster fisherman, and/or an interview with a lobster fisherman.
4. A projection of the likely future of lobster fishing in Maine.
7. A look at the economics and demographic pressures from major customers such as:
8. Environmental concerns regarding the industry in general and the north-east region in particular.

Red Lobster
Grocery chains that carry lobsters
Producers that prepare lobster-based dishes for retail in grocery stores

- Topics to consider include- changing weather patterns / over-fishing / demographics / the cost of doing business*
5. A description of the lobsters' life span / eco-system / reproductive rate.
 6. A cultural investigation into when and why lobsters became a luxury food.
 9. Mail-order businesses run by small organizations.
 10. Point-of-view vignettes from enthusiastic lobster-eaters, vegans, and perhaps those with shell-fish allergies.

Below is one possible outline choice:

Introduction

1. Introduction / History. 3 paragraphs
2. Description of one contemporary business, including an interview. 4 - 5 paragraphs
3. The rise of small mail-order businesses. 2 - 3 paragraphs
4. The lobster's lifecycle. 2 paragraphs
5. The concerns and warnings from environmentalists. 2-3 paragraphs (use transition words indicating you're introducing another p.o.v.)
6. The anticipated future of lobster fishing in Maine 1- 2 paragraphs

Conclusion

Consider an emotional or funny or serious remark about the future for the family business. You might also close with a quotation from your interview subject.



Write your introduction and conclusion last!

Until you've completely written the body of the essay, you won't really know what you're introducing, or what conclusion(s) you might make.