

Fall 2009 Research Paper (RP) Workshops*

Faculty: Steven F. Freeman, Ph.D.

The Organizational Dynamics program can provide many benefits for you and your career, but the distinctive competence of the University of Pennsylvania is research. Penn is one of the world's pre-eminent research institutions and being a student here puts you at the forefront of knowledge and knowledge creation. Every research paper you write affords you the opportunity to become the leading expert on your subject matter.

To realize this opportunity, however, requires both a basic understanding of knowledge creation and ability to persuasively communicate what you know. These are the skills that we work on in these sessions.

OD students are encouraged to participate in as many sessions as they can. All workshops are individualized to address each participant's needs. Please write to Dr. Freeman at sff@sas.upenn.edu with any questions.

Workshop RP-1: Getting Started on Research

Tuesday, September 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring: a statement of goals for your program or career and the role of research in attaining them

We will discuss the nature of research and writing a research paper, focusing on your questions and theses. Depending on the participants' needs, these are some of the topics we may cover:

- Getting started – figuring out what you want to work on and why
- Conducting preliminary research – coming up to speed on current knowledge
- Understanding knowledge creation: How do we know what (we think) we know?

Workshop RP-2: Developing a Research Question and Thesis

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring: a proposal statement or early work. Be prepared to explain who might be interested in your work and why

We will discuss the steps in writing a research paper, focusing on your questions and theses.

Topics include:

- Types of research projects and papers
- Identifying your audience
- Conducting a literature review
- Goals to consider in writing your paper
- Choosing a subject
- Developing a research thesis
- Developing a research question

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Organizational Dynamics students may register (dynamics@sas.upenn.edu) for any or all of these workshops, and each is free. However, to hold a seat, you must send a check for \$50.00 for each workshop (payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania) to the Organizational Dynamics office, Suite 328A, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, 19104-6228. Write the number (e.g., Workshop RP-2) on each check you send. Upon arrival at the workshop, you will receive your check. If you cancel with a compelling reason prior to the workshop, your check will be returned. If you neither attend nor have a compelling excuse, the check will be cashed.

Workshop RP-3: Using the University's Library Resources **

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Van Pelt library

Special session held at Van Pelt library. Topics include:

- Using the "Deep Web"
- Evaluating sources
- Primary sources and secondary sources
- Search techniques
- Types of journals and journal articles

**** Contingent on sufficient enrollment! Please register promptly.**

Workshop RP-4: Obtaining and Presenting Evidence and Data

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring: a completed research proposal or an outline of a current research paper

The nature of scientific evidence and how it is effectively used and presented. Topics include:

- Types of data
- Assertions and support
- Specifics to make your writing compelling
- Validity and rigor
- Healthy skepticism

Workshop RP-5: Organizing the Research Paper

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring: a current paper draft with an outline or a recently completed paper

We will discuss the structure of a paper, how to organize it. Topics include:

- A paper's invisible structure
- The pyramid process: Using each section and each paragraph to support the main argument
- The structure and function of sections and paragraphs
- Transitions between sections
- Introductions and conclusions

Dr. Steven Freeman

Dr. Freeman has won four national research awards from the Academy of Management for outstanding scholarship and received an award from Sonoma State University's "Project Censored" for research documenting the most important (unreported) stories of 2006. He holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management and an M.S. in Social System Science from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Since 2000, he has held several academic positions at the University of Pennsylvania, where he currently serves as Resident Scholar in Organizational Dynamics in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at the Wharton School, the Universidad de San Andreas in Argentina and the Central American Institute of Business Administration in Costa Rica, where he conducted management courses for private and public sector leaders and faculty workshops on research methods. His research led to his widely acclaimed recent book, *Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen? Exit Polls, Election Fraud, and the Official Count* (Seven Stories Press, 2006) and helped give birth to a new Election Integrity movement.