

Special Note to Students

I wrote the *Back Porch Guide to the Research Paper* because I do not like current trends in the textbook industry. In order to justify prices which are much too high, textbooks designed to help students write better research papers have become so cumbersome that they are practically unusable.

The *Back Porch Guide to the Research Paper* takes a middle way between providing you with nothing or providing you with something that is too overwhelming. It gives a general overview of key strategies you need to successfully write a research paper. More detailed information, for those who desire it, is distributed in on-line supplements to the workbook.



As I prepare this note, I am reminded of the cliché, “You get what you pay for.” These quickly quoted words of wisdom remind us that low price equals cheap content; that you cannot expect much quality from *The Back Porch Guide to the Research Paper* because the book doesn’t cost you anything.

I am blessed to be in a position where all of my needs are met and I do not need to support myself on my writing and research. Therefore, I am privileged to provide what I hope you find to be a quality workbook at no cost to you.

Finally, I have used a conversational tone when writing *The Back Porch Guide to the Research Paper* and hope the conversation can continue between us. I am also interested in any suggestions for improvement or information you have that can be added to the on-line, supplementary materials. Please use the e-mail address at the bottom of each page to contact me.

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