

Approaching Research

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Why learning? Why research?

Why learning?

- The first revelation to the Prophet
- “Neither the Holy Qur'an nor the Holy Prophet ever contemplated the existence of an ignorant Muslim. Indeed, "ignorant Muslim" is a contradiction in terms. In the great days of Islam, an ignorant Muslim, like an indigent Muslim, could hardly have been found.” (Marmaduke Pickthall)

Why research?

- Surah Qalam
- Surah Taubah 9:122

- وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُوا كَآفَّةً فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِنْ كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ ٤

Letters and words

- Faculty of Letters

Polonius: What do you read, my lord?

Hamlet: Words, words, words.

Polonius: What is the matter, my lord?

Hamlet: Between who?

Polonius: I mean, the matter that you read, my lord.

Hamlet: Slanders, sir: for the satirical rogue says here that old men have grey beards....

Polonius: [Aside] Though this be madness, yet there is method in't. –

Hamlet, Act II, Scene ii.

Impacts of words

- أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ
- Surah Ibrahim 14:24

“We see, then, how far the monuments of wit and learning are more durable than the monuments of power or of the hands. For have not the verses of Homer continued twenty-five hundred years or more, without the loss of a syllable or letter; during which time infinite palaces, temples, castles, cities, have been decayed and demolished?”

Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning* (1605)

Spoken and written words

- “Unlike in the case of verbal communication, prior to submitting a written work for publication authors have the opportunity to edit and revise it multiple times. They can revisit it again and again in order to enhance its content and polish its language. Once they submit their ‘final’ draft to a journal, editors and reviewers evaluate and assess its merit and suitability. If a manuscript is accepted, they help further revise, refine, and make it ready for production.”

“In the field of language and literature, as in many other disciplines, we academics largely deal in and with words. We speak words during instructional contact hours with students and explain to them human conditions – real or fictional – expressed in words and other symbols. We publish words that then help us meet the pressing demand to build academic credentials. Thus, we use both spoken and written words for learning as well as for knowledge creation and dissemination purposes.”

“Manuscript Quality, Authorship Fraud, and Other Issues”

Why quality?

- Good ideas – if not, no need for research and writing
- “Good word”
- Food and plate

- Surah al-Qariah, 101:6-11

- Qur’an 2:286

The research process

- Self editing
- Peer review

You may wish to follow these steps to polish the content and language of your book review assignment:

Put maximum efforts and prepare a best possible draft > Share it with your friend-1 for their feedback/comments. > Work on their comments (you may accept or ignore their corrections/feedback) and then prepare a revised draft. >

Give the revised draft to your friend-2 for their inputs/comments. > Work on their comments (you may accept or ignore their corrections/feedback) and then prepare another revised draft. >

Read the finished product few more times to make it as flawless as possible, in-shaa-Allah.

At the end of your book review, you will need to mention the names of the two friends who will have read your work, including their email addresses and mobile numbers. You should not ask someone to read your work who has already read three book reviews of other ENGL4020 students.

Time

- My life
- This morning
- My journey to al-Shafie

What are we busy with?

Our handphones

Celebrity

“I hold people of substance in high esteem but rarely get starstruck very easily. I can bump into a superstar celebrity or politician without letting my emotions run high. I know very well that interactions or photo opportunities with renowned people will not make me important if there is nothing important within myself.”

Ibn Hazm

“It seems unworthy of a man to consecrate himself to something which is not higher than he is, that is to say, a Supreme Goodness.... All else is a foolish waste of time.” – Ibn Hazm

“The good work, one profitable for an immortal life, stands innocent of all defect, free of all imperfection, and is, moreover, a sure way to put aside every anxiety effectively.” – Ibn Hazm

- “But seek, with the (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the Home of the Hereafter, nor forget your portion in this world: but do good, as Allah has been good to you, and seek not (occasions for) mischief in the land: for Allah loves not those who do mischief.”
(Qur’an, 28:77)

- Beggars
- People of substance