

# Research Report Steps

To Help Improve Organization

Step 1

# **THESIS STATEMENT**

# **S + D + 3R = Thesis**

**Subject:** NORTHERN MICHIGAN

**Direction:** Explain why Northern Michigan is a fantastic vacation destination

**3 Reasons:**

**Reason #1:** IT HAS EXCITING ACTIVITIES TO DO

**Reason #2:** IT HAS AMAZING NATURAL BEAUTY

**Reason #3:** IT HAS UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS

## THESIS STATEMENT

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN IS A TERRIFIC VACATION DESTINATION BECAUSE IT HAS EXCITING ACTIVITIES, AMAZING NATURAL BEAUTY, AND UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS.**

Step 2

**BREAK 3 REASONS INTO SUB-REASONS**

# Reason #1: ACTIVITIES

1. Kayak (ex: Au Sable River)
2. Golf (ex: Boyne Highlands)
3. Bike (ex: Leelanau Trail)

# Reason #2: NATURAL BEAUTY

1. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park
2. Tahquamenon Falls
3. Copper Harbor

# Reason #3: ATTRACTIONS

1. Traverse City (during the Cherry Festival)
2. Mackinac Island
3. Sault St. Marie (and the Soo Locks)

Step 3

**CREATE NOTE CARDS**

**Reason #\_ : \_\_\_\_\_: Sub-reason #\_ : \_\_\_\_\_**

- List relevant information here
- In bullet point format
- List as much information as you can find

(Parenthetical Citation)

Front

Works Cited page information goes here, exactly  
as it would appear on a Works Cited page

OR

Simply write the Source # (the Works Cited  
information would be listed, according to  
Source #, on a separate page)

Back

## **Reason #1: ACTIVITIES: Sub-reason #1: Kayak**

- Kayak the Au Sable River
- River flows 3-4 mph
- River depth 18-36 inches
- 2.5-5.5 hour trips
- View wildlife without disturbing it (because kayaks don't make much noise)
- 8 mile – 18 mile trips

Front

(Hunter)

Hunter, Mark, Cheri Hunter. "Canoe and Kayak Trips." *Borchers Canoe and Kayaks*. 2010.  
Web. 28 January 2011.

Back

# **Reason #2: NATURAL BEAUTY: Sub-reason #1: SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL PARK**

- Relevant Information

Front

(parenthetical citation)

Works Cited Page Information

OR

Source #

Back

**Reason #3: ATTRACTIONS: Sub-reason #1:  
TRAVERSE CITY DURING CHERRY FESTIVAL**

Front

( )

Works Cited Page Information

OR

Source #

Back

Step 4

**TURN NOTE CARDS INTO OUTLINE**

# Introduction

## I. Introductory Paragraph

- A. When planning a vacation, many people often disregard or neglect to notice the beautiful vacation that may exist in their own backyard.
- B. For some, vacationing in their own state seems more like a *trip* than a *vacation*. However, given the current state of our economy, expensive vacations to exotic locations is unreasonable to many Americans. Luckily, there are many exciting and relaxing vacations that can be taken—with minimal travel and expense!
- C. Northern Michigan is a fantastic vacation destination because it has exciting activities, amazing natural beauty, and unique attractions.

# Body Paragraph 1

## II. Exciting Activities

### A. Kayak the Au Sable River

- 1) Michigan offers a number of interesting activities; one activity that can be exciting for the whole family is kayaking.
- 2) There are over X rivers in Northern Michigan that are perfect for kayaking or canoeing. The Au Sable river, for instance, provides a variety of kayaking trips that are able to be enjoyed by experienced and inexperienced kayakers alike (Hunter).
- 3) But if aquatic activities aren't interesting for you, you could try out one of Northern Michigan's most popular leisure activities.

# Body Paragraph 2

## II. Exciting Activities

### B. Golf

- 1) Many people take vacations to Northern Michigan for the beautiful golf courses.
- 2) Aside from being a fun and leisurely sport, golfing can also be interesting for the non-golfer (parenthetical citation).
- 3) For someone who wants to explore the beauty of Northern Michigan with a bit more excitement, you might consider taking a trip on one of Northern Michigan's many biking / hiking trails.

# Body Paragraph 3

## II. Exciting Activities

### C. Bike along the Leelanau Trail

1) Topic Sentence

2) Supporting Ideas

3) Closing / Transition Sentence

# Body Paragraphs 4

## III. Natural Beauty

### A. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park

1)

2)

3)

# Body Paragraph 5

## III. Natural Beauty

### B. Tahquamenon Falls

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

# Body Paragraph 6

## III. Natural Beauty

### C. Copper Harbor

1)

2)

3)

# Body Paragraphs 7

## IV. Attractions

### A. Traverse City during the Cherry Festival

1)

2)

3)

# Body Paragraphs 8

## IV. Attractions

### B. Mackinac Island

1)

2)

3)

# Body Paragraphs 9

## IV. Attractions

### C. Sault St. Marie and the Soo Locks

1)

2)

3)

# Conclusion

## V. Conclusion Paragraph

- A. For the family on a budget, a simple vacation to Northern Michigan can be a relaxing and fun getaway.
- B. Northern Michigan offers a multitude of different activities, a large quantity of beautiful natural landmarks, and plenty of unique attractions for the whole family.
- C. Supporting Ideas
  - 1) Although it may not sound like much of a vacation at first, any tourist will come to realize the joy and relaxation that can be found in the “Great Lakes State”.
  - 2) From tranquil rivers to monstrous waterfalls, from massive man-made bridges to ancient glacial sand dunes, Northern Michigan runs the gamut when it comes to fun activities, cool attractions, and rare beauty.
- D. So, the next time you are planning a vacation, look no further than your own backyard—you might just be surprised by what you find!

Step 5

**TURN OUTLINE INTO PAPER**