

The prescription drug industry is a multi-faceted, convoluted field. With companies that have no background in scientific research entering the market for the sole purpose of making a profit, the pharmaceutical industry is in dire need of change. This issue had plagued my mind for many months, so when my Writing and Rhetoric professor tasked us with thinking about what our research topic would be, I knew exactly what I was going to choose. I wanted to show people the greed and corporate schemes that existed behind our pill bottles, so I set out on my research journey.

Now, while I refrained from making the aggressive claims that I stated above, I did lay out the facts in my paper. My goal was to provide all the information I could to lead the reader to make this conclusion for him or herself. I took a very matter-of-fact tone in this work in an attempt to be an unbiased informant of the situation at hand. This research paper is a comprehensive guide to the unethical nature of the prescription drug market. It is the product of months of extensive research and analysis that would not have been successful if it had not been for the incredible services and support offered by the library.

The first step in my research process was to form my research question. Our class had a meeting with FYS librarian Melissa Harden, who showed us all of the online services the library offers. She also explained to us what the research process looks like, step by step. After that meeting, I was excited to dive right in. The first thing I did was head to the library and start reading. I used the Notre Dame OneSearch feature to start broad and find books that would be a good starting point for my research. I went down the economics section of the basement and found six books that I sat and read all afternoon. During that time, I wrote down some topics I wanted to discuss and questions I wanted to answer. At the end of the day, I had formed a

tentative question that would address the current state of the pharmaceutical market from social, political, and economic points of view.

I began to do more research with this question in mind but quickly realized that it was far too broad. I returned to the library to try to narrow my topic. After reading many more books and articles, I decided I wanted to address the ethics of pharmaceutical pricing. I felt good about this topic, so I started doing more detailed research on the economic aspects of pricing and the moral aspects of healthcare access, but I still did not feel 100% sold on this topic. After reading about so many different court cases, where manufacturers were sued over their pricing schemes, I decided to investigate this further and discovered that manufacturers are the ones at the root of many of the industry's problems. I was set now; I would focus on why manufacturers are the reason prescription drug prices are so high, and I would do it through a set of case studies.

My next step was to turn to Melissa Harden in a one-on-one meeting. Here, we discussed my topic, the direction I was headed, and the research I had done up to this point. She provided me with some phenomenal sources that she had found (many of which I used in my paper). What I really wanted though was access to several of the court cases and government documents that U had read about. I asked Melissa for help in this respect. She searched the library databases for a bit, but Melissa admitted that legal research was not her specialty, so we headed out to the help desk where a law student sat. She introduced me to NexisUni, a legal database that contains thousands of court cases, rulings, motions, etc. I now had access to the cases that I wanted to analyze in my paper.

At this point I had compiled a significant number of sources that I kept organized by making note of which ones I had read, which ones I was planning on using, what sections or lines I wanted to quote or reference specifically, and which books did not work out for me. I

even made an annotated bibliography about halfway through my research that helped me evaluate my sources for their usefulness in my paper.

In the final stages of my research, I wanted more specific documents and papers, so I turned to the library website. There I found CurateND where I was able to access and read several dissertations on the economics of health care. I also had access to datasets on national spending through CEIC. At one point, I found an article that seemed perfect for my paper but was unavailable at our library, so I turned to Notre Dame's Interlibrary Loan service who was able to find it for me.

At this point my paper growing every day. I spent many mornings, afternoons, and nights on the tenth floor completely engulfed in my reading and writing. Staying organized was the key to managing so many sources and so much information. Making a detailed outline of my entire paper with the sources I wanted to incorporate in each paragraph was also helpful in staying on track.

Before I knew it, this beautiful representation of all the research I had done to discuss an issue that is relevant and important to me was complete. Without the help of the library staff and all of the resources they offer to students, I would not have been able to write such a cohesive and well-researched paper. The library and its staff taught me so much about the research process and what goes in to writing a 25-30-page paper. The skills that this project and the library taught me are going to be valuable in every aspect of my future life.