Illustrated articles. Last summer the article "Make Way for the Sultan of Swipes" (Aug. 32, pp. 24-30) had about 3,000 words in it. This nearly equals your page-long paper. The topic of the Sports Illustrated article was very narrow: one man, Lou Brock; one achievement: base-stealing. Most students tend to write on topics too broad for the length assigned. Writing your paper will be easier if, before you begin, you zero in on a tiny aspect of a subject and stick to exploring that. Write about the history of one musical instrument, not the history of slang. Explore the development of one rock musician, not the evolution of rock. Consider the consequences of one biology experiment, not the whole DNA issue. Then ask yourself if you've limited the topic enough.

Limiting is probably the most important thinking task facing you. Writers can never forget that you must form a topic and must force themselves to leave out some good material. Take this topic. There's no room for the story about the legendary dangling modifier or for a discussion of stylish devices. In fact, there's not even room for the topic. Although the assigned topic was "how to write a paper," the assigned length was only 1,000 words. The library had 13 shelves of books on writing. The six books selected as sources for the article had 2,192 pages total—not counting indexes. The word limit of 1,000 words was chosen to squeeze 2,192 pages into 1,000 words.

Research. As you write a paper, you should accept that. Fragments that offend are like dangling modifiers: you can get from otherwise well-meaning reference librarians who ever gesture.

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

time reader needs help from the beginning, middle, and

used to understand the reader. L

The trouble is that the paper will be, phrase: "This paper is ab

ken and is a mod

Your Term Paper Mission

Term papers are written for an audience of one—the professor. As you sit down to write, think of your audience and take pity. Your teacher would probably rather spend his nights doing something more creative. Instead, this sentence or a subject must sift through reams of white bond paper, hundreds of thousands of black type

columns of characters in double-spaced lines blurring together. Your as

sake that a paper of her hours with fast and vicious at

acks that left her opt motionless. Jeannette on the next man's necks, about contributing a

A short paper—say, 2000 words—must be done in much less than a longer one sit's less time for a rela

}