

How to Write the Research Paper

1. Every essay or paper is made up of three parts:

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

2. **Introduction:** Begin with a broad statement relevant to your topic. With each sentence, get more and more specific **until the end of the paragraph where you state your thesis.**

The purpose of the introduction is to:

- Let the reader know what the topic is
- Inform the reader about your point of view
- Arouse the reader's curiosity so that he or she will want to read about your topic

3. **Body paragraphs:** most likely 6-15 body paragraphs

- Write a topic sentence (main idea) for each paragraph. Limit each paragraph to one main idea. (Don't try to talk about more than one idea per paragraph.)
- Then explain your main idea with details, facts, examples, and other supporting evidence; quote or paraphrase documents that will help to explain your point in better detail.
- Prove your points continually by using specific examples and quotations from your note cards.
- Use transition words to ensure a smooth flow of ideas from paragraph to paragraph.

4. **Analytical Conclusion:**

- Explain your opposing argument and give at least 2 pieces of specific evidence to support (cite the sources).
- Summarize why your thesis is stronger and give evidence. Give specific evidence (if none of the information is new, you do NOT need to cite it).
- Most likely 2-3 paragraphs.

Reminders:

- 1 inch margins!
- Times New Roman 12 point font—ONLY!
- Number your pages! (of the actual essay, no numbers for the cover page—the 1st page of the essay should be 1)
- Add your own commentary between each fact you quote or paraphrase from a source
- If a body paragraph is too long, please find a place to divide it!
- Paste tense (there are very few reasons that you can write in present tense in this paper)
- NO contractions: ~~can't~~ ~~don't~~ ~~wouldn't~~
- NO extra lines/spaces between paragraphs
- NEVER use the word = a lot ~~lots~~ ~~till~~ ~~tons~~
- NEVER start a sentence with a number! If you do, you MUST spell out the number.
- NEVER use the first name of your person when referring to them (unless they are a king/queen such as King Louis XIV or Queen Victoria). Always use last names or their full name.
- NO quotes over 4 lines!!! Period!
- NO more than 4-5 quotes in the entire paper!