

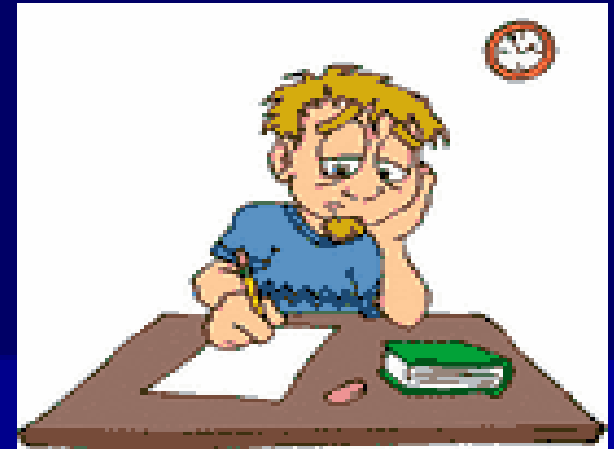
How to be a **STRONGER** **STUDENT: How to Write a** **Research Paper**

Presented by the
Collegiate Science and Technology
Entrance Program

What your problem areas?

What areas do you struggle with when writing a research paper?

Major Obstacles



- Narrowing or choosing a paper topic
- How to approach and write the paper in a systematic way
- How to locate sources
- Balancing your interests and what is realistically achievable given the time and research

Research Paper: The Style

- MLA-Modern Language Association-Humanities
 - <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/results.asp?WRD=MLA&z=y>
- APA-American Psychological Association-Social Sciences
 - <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/results.asp?WRD=apa&z=y>
- Chicago Style-History
 - <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/results.asp?WRD=chicago+style&z=y>
- By knowing this you will know what type of resources, citations, and formatting would be appropriate.

Types of Resources

Primary-The book, an actual study

Secondary-Critiques or citations of a primary source or citing of a study

Research Resources

- www.fordham.edu/libraries
 - Databases & Catalog
- Interlibrary Loans for books or journals
- Internet-make sure you cite properly and verify if the source is acceptable



Research Paper: Two Types

1. **Argumentative**-Trying to prove a point based on research done on your topic. Having research support your thesis
2. **Analytical**-Coming to your individual conclusions based on the research available



How to Begin Your Approach for Analytical

1. Thoroughly understand the question or topic
2. Create a plan of attack by breaking down the question into different parts
3. Create outline which highlights different parts of the paper
4. Create a timeline to get things done (e.g., go to library begin your literature review, write introduction)
5. Cite as you go along! Use programs like EndNote, Footnotes



How to Begin your Approach for Argumentative

- Come up with a clear, concise, and original thesis
 - Do brief review of your topic to narrow your focus and identify an area that can withstand your research
- Do more research on your thesis by examining sources that have worked on your thesis topic. Make sure to present and review work that covers both sides of the argument
- Create outline on how you will introduce the reader to your argument
- Research shouldn't overpower the paper. Your opinion should be the major focus and research merely support what you are saying.



Research Paper: The Body

Depends on the style you are using but the composition is essentially the same.

1. Introduction

- MLA: Introduce thesis by providing general statements about paper that speak to the point of your topic/paper (get examples of MLA)
- APA: Is more overt. (get examples of APA)

2. Body

- MLA: Have points to support your thesis. 4-5 points that can support your thesis.
- APA: Can be more systematic in writing. You can separate your topic in headings.

3. Conclusion/Summary

- MLA: Do not reiterate what you wrote in your introduction. Making a final statement on thesis of the paper without summarizing everything you wrote previously
- APA: Highlight major points in paper and summarize content.

Time Management

- At the start of the semester identify when research papers are due.
- Immediately get a good understanding of your professor's expectations for the paper
- Consider how you will get your other work done
- Break up the research into parts as well as the writing. Do it in a way that makes sense (e.g., by pages, or parts).
- **JUST WRITE! YOU CAN ALWAYS GO BACK & EDIT!**
- Have someone review the paper for grammar & clarity and that you're conveying your message.

Checklist

- Set Work Schedule/Timetetable
- Identify General Topic, Begin Library Work
- Clarify Required Documentation Style
- Read to Narrow Topic
- Draft Preliminary Outline
- Begin Research and Note Taking
- Draft Final Outline
- Refine Thesis and Write First Draft
- Develop Works Cited/Reference Sheet
- Read, Revise and Write additional Drafts
- Edit, Format and Double-Check Citations
- Complete Final Draft and Proofread
- Hand in Final Paper



What are some of your research paper topics

- Please share your topics and areas you are struggling with?
- Or come up with sample research papers
 - MLA: Romeo & Juliet-Argumentative
 - APA: Depression-Analytical

RESEARCH PAPER CHECKLIST

Class: _____

Due: _____

√	TASKS	DUE DATE	DATES/HOURS
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	Draft Preliminary Outline		
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	Draft Final Outline		
	Refine Thesis and Write First Draft		
	Develop Works Cited/Reference Sheet		
	Read, Revise and Write additional Drafts		
	Edit, Format and Double-Check Citations		
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RESEARCH PAPER CHECKLIST

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