

## Library Research Paper

### Research Paper

The format of the research paper will be more formal than the essays you have written and much greater consideration should be given to evidence to support the ideas or opinions. It is essential that you demonstrate an informed knowledge of your topic based on sources you have researched in the library. The primary objective in writing a research paper is the clear communication of ideas expressed orderly, smoothly and in a precise manner. By developing your ideas clearly and logically, your reader is able to follow you from one thought to the next, without confusion or ambiguity. Be precise in your word usage. The aim of research writing is the efficient communication of ideas. Don't use long technical phrases just to sound scientific, especially if you do not understand what they mean.

A research paper is usually written in the past tense, but there are times when present tense may be called for. It is a good idea to use one tense or the other consistently within the paper. In striving to achieve readable prose, avoid both strings of short, choppy, declarative sentences and interminably long sentences with innumerable clauses.

Pitfalls to watch for:

1. Avoid the use of colloquial expressions or slang such as "awesome". They are usually too informal and sound juvenile.
2. Avoid references to yourself such as "I believe," "I hate it," "I think," "in my opinion" etc.
3. Try to be clear and be economical in the use of words in the sentence. However, this does not mean you should be so cryptic that it is difficult to discern the meaning of your ideas.
4. Avoid the use of too many qualifiers, e.g. "totally awesome."
5. Expressing strong personal opinions without supportive evidence.

### Format of your paper

You should have at least **12 references** from academic journals and books cited in your paper. The paper must be typed with **one inch margins, double spaced, using a 12 pt New Times Roman font** should contain approximately **8 pages** of text, excluding references.

### Introduction

The introductory paragraph should convey to your reader what you are going to cover in your paper. Usually an introduction will have a thesis or focus, or a generalization that will be proved or developed in the body of the paper. A good introduction will provide a smooth transition for the reader into the body of your paper, and should make the reader want to continue to read your paper.

### Body of the paper

In the body of your paper, present and develop your thesis in an organized logical manner. Be sure to review specific concepts and ideas that are relevant to your thesis, and provide your readers with enough background knowledge so that they will have a clear understanding of what you will be discussing. Pay special attention to overall organization and make smooth, logical transitions between paragraphs. Headings are often very useful to provide your paper with an organization.

### Summary and conclusions

The final section of your paper is the summary and conclusions which provides your reader with a transition out of the paper. You should remind your reader of your initial thesis, summarize the major issues raised in the body, and state your conclusions. A good concluding section should leave the reader satisfied with your summary and conclusions even though they may disagree with them.

## References

The last page of your paper contains the references you used for your paper. This page should have the word "References," centered at the top of the page. The basic format is as follows:

Last Name, Initials. (Year). Title. *Journal Name*, *Volume number*, pages.

Martin, D. M. (1996). How to drive students crazy through writing assignments. *Journal of Barbaric Teaching Methods*, 9, 666-999.

## Citations

Citing references in the body of the paper should have the following format. "In his usual creative manner, Martin has developed an excellent vehicle to test the mettle of the average college student (Martin, 1996)." If you use a direct quotation from your source provide the page number.

"No student comes out of this course without a brain change" (Martin, 1996, p. 668).

<div>Running Head 1</div> <div>Title</div> <div>Name</div> <div>FTS-Gender</div> <div>December 1, 2005</div>	<div>Running Head 3</div> <div>Title</div> <div>Introduction. Double spaced text.</div> <div>Body</div> <div>Summary and conclusions</div>	<div>Running Head 10</div> <div>References</div> <div>Martin, D. M. (1996). How to drive students crazy through writing assignments. <i>Journal of Barbaric Teaching Methods</i>, 9, 666-999.</div>
<div>Running Head 2</div> <div>Abstract</div>		

## Criteria for grading paper

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mechanics. One point will be deducted for each infraction.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Format such as margins, headings, etc.. (5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Punctuation and Spelling (5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect Grammar ( 5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect Citations (5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use of Euphemisms, Jargon, or Slang (5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Improper Length (5 points maximum).

### **Writing Style points will be added on the following basis.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The first paragraph introduces the topic of the paper and generates interest in the reader (5 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Each paragraph expresses a basic idea that is coherent and well developed (10 points maximum)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transitions between paragraphs are smooth. Paragraphs demonstrate an overall organization of the ideas expressed that builds throughout the paper (10 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Terms and ideas are detailed so as to provide a clear understanding of the topic (1 - 10 points).

### **Content points will be added on the following basis.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The paper sufficiently reviews the literature on the topic, and uses reputable academic sources for the majority of the ideas expressed in the paper (15 points maximum).
- \_\_\_\_\_ The paper is informative, written in an interesting manner, uses empirical evidence to make main points, and shows evidence of the author's expertise in the subject matter (20 points maximum).