

Research Paper Requirements:

Choose a specific technology or a technological topic to research. The topic must be appropriate; if there are any doubts run it with your parents first. Refer to my website for research topic ideas.

- Research papers are in 12 font size and Time New Roman (usually) and are double spaced with a 1 inch margin, (top, bottom, right, and left).
- Do not use italics or bold print.
- Do not use the “Center” or “Justify” feature for spacing within the text.
- Have a running head in the upper left side of the header and page number such as 1 in the upper right part of the header.
- Make sure the running head is included on each page. It should have a title page that includes; your name, title of paper.

The approximate proportions of the four main parts are shown below.

- 1) Introduction: 1 or 2 paragraphs usually no more than a page in total.
 - The function of an Introduction is to present the main issue and a thesis at the end.
- 2) Optional Background Information and Opposing Arguments: 1 or 2 paragraphs maximum, if and when necessary no more than a page in total.
- 3) Thesis Support/Body: the bulk of the paper from 3 to 4 PAGES.
 - While you are researching you will be focused on the quality of the information and how well it addresses the question or problem driving your research.

Typically, not all of the information that you decide to use to support your thesis will be equally significant or strong.

As a result, when you draft your paper, think about the best way to arrange your thesis support. If your strongest support comes too early, then the rest of your paper may be anticlimactic.

Your goal should be to organize your support in such a way that it builds to a strong conclusion or climax.

You won't always find the ideal sequence in your first draft. Don't be afraid to change things around as you revise the paper.

4) Ending: 0 to 1 paragraph maximum.

- If you conceive of a conclusion that contributes something to the paper (and doesn't just restate the main points), add a paragraph but limit yourself to no more than one.

Citing Information

1. Cite where information has come from within the paper when it appears in the paper (especially when using quotes) using MLA format. Do not put them all at the end of the paragraph unless the entire paragraph is from that/those authors.
2. Check how to cite in text. If you add page number (Author, Year, p. ##) Without page number (Author, Year)
3. If you cite a study, author or quote from a book or article other than the author of the book / article you are using, look at the reference page and find the reference information to cite the original author (referred to as double citing). So, if you are reading a book by Jane Jones and state in your paper...Joe Smith states that "Alcoholism is bad." (Jones, 2009)... that is incorrect. Look at the reference page of the Jones resource to find the original article / book by Smith & cite Smith in text and on reference page.
4. Citing an Entire Web Site
 - It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available later. If a URL is required or you chose to include one, be sure to include the complete address for the site. (Note: The following examples do not include a URL because MLA no longer requires a URL to be included.)
 - Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.
 - Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.
 - *The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

- Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 10 May 2006.

5. Please google the MLA format for more citing guidelines

Research Guidelines

1. Select Topic/Formulate Research Question

- Is your topic too broad? Too narrow?
- Broad topic: Earthquakes around the world
- Narrow topic: Earthquakes in California
- Too narrow: Earthquakes in Milwaukee
- What do you already know about your topic?
- Consider what other questions might need to be answered
- Consider available resources – topic should be covered in readily available resources

2. Find & Evaluate Potential Sources

- What possible resources are available for you to use?
- How will you evaluate the resources for Relevancy, Appropriateness, Detail, Currency, Authority, and Bias (RADCAB™)?
- What keywords will help you locate important information?

3. Record Sources and Note Taking

- Before taking notes, record sources.
- For example: Create one source card for each resource (label/number each card) or use template chart
- Take notes using note cards or T-charts
- Remember the type of note you are taking (paraphrasing, summary, or direct quote)

4. Organize Your Information

- Organize your information using a graphic organizer, outline, or note cards

- Do you have enough information to answer the question or fulfill the teacher requirements?
- If not, locate more information