

# **How To Write A Reasearch Paper**

# HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PAPER

## What is a Research Paper?

A research paper is a piece of academic writing, consisting of analysis, interpretation, and argument-based research. In comparison to essays, research papers are far more detailed. They don't only focus on your writing skills, but your research skills as well, hence the name 'research paper'. When writing a research paper, you don't just share your opinion on the matter, but also include a lot of factual information including any relevant sources.

## 4 STEPS FOR WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

### Step 1 - Choose and/or Understand Your Topic

Before starting to write your research paper, it's important that you understand what it is exactly that you are writing about. If you were given the great opportunity of being able to pick your own topic to write about, it may be a good idea to choose something that you know you are comfortable to talk about for a long period of time, something that you may even consider yourself to be passionate about.

### Step 2 - Conduct Research

Now that you are comfortable with your topic, it's time to do the research. If you're struggling with what exactly you need to research, just think of these five key questions and try to use as many as you can in your research paper: what? why? when? where? and, how? Write down as much information as you can but make sure that your notes are clear and well organised, as this will make putting everything together in the end a lot easier.

Try to find any information on the topic that most people tend to ignore, this may add uniqueness to your paper which is excellent as you want to stand out. Are there any strong debates revolving around your topic, what are they? And why are they so strong? Feel free to share your own personal opinion to the topic, if you have a unique opinion that's even better. Have there been any recent changes to your topic?

### Step 3 - Create a draft or as Many as You Need

As many of us have learnt in life, practise makes perfect. After gathering up as much information surrounding your topic as possible, attempt a first draft. Create what your research paper will roughly look like when it's completed. Don't be too concerned about it making sense 100% or looking perfect and having correct spellings and grammar, this is just a draft. You will have to opportunity to develop it later on.

Make sure your draft includes everything you want to include on your research paper, you're able to use or create a research paper outline to help you with this before you start. Make sure everything is in correct order and clear, if you're not too sure don't focus on the introduction for now. Finally, make sure your paragraphs are correctly written. Each paragraph should focus on one idea at a time, in order to be clear and organised for the reader.

### Step 4 - Create Your Final Product

Once you're happy with your previous draft, it's finally time to write the actual thing.

Remember to start with a good introduction, here is where you should try to answer the 'what? why? and how?' questions, in order to properly introduce your topic to the reader. Follow up with a well detailed body and text, make sure your paragraphs are organised and you're being clear on the subject. Using an outline for this part, will be extremely helpful if you're stuck. Finally, end with a conclusion. You don't want to end your paper with any questions unanswered or with new information you won't be able to discuss, you want to give the reader a sense of finality.

## RESEARCH PAPER EXAMPLE

### Introduction

(What is COVID19? What place is most affected and which one is the least affected, according to cases? What do the statistics show?)

### Paragraph 1: The dangers of COVID19

(What are the symptoms and time-frame of the virus? Is there a risk of death, according to statistics? How does COVID19 spread?)

### Paragraph 2: How to prevent COVID19 and why are there doubts?

(How are the procedures put in place helping to prevent COVID19? How does this change throughout the globe? Why do people believe this virus isn't a real thing and what are the debates surrounding this subject?)

### Paragraph 3: How are the protests affecting the cases?

(Where have there been protests and what affect did it have on that specific region?)

### Paragraph 4: COVID19 and other diseases

(How are the dangers of COVID19 linked to other diseases? How can COVID19 lead to other diseases and what are they? What do the statistics of those with other diseases who passed away after contracting COVID19 show?)

### Conclusion

(Summarise all the different arguments about COVID19, as well as all the figures you have presented in your research paper. Conclude a statement based on the information you have gathered and share which side you believe is right.)

**How to write a research paper** is a fundamental skill that every student must master to succeed in academia. Crafting a well-structured research paper not only demonstrates your understanding of a particular topic but also showcases your ability to communicate complex ideas effectively. This article will guide you through the essential steps in writing a research paper, from choosing a topic to finalizing your draft.

## Understanding the Basics of a Research Paper

Before diving into the writing process, it's crucial to understand what a research paper entails. A research paper is an academic piece that presents your own analysis, interpretation, or argument based on in-depth research. It typically includes the following components:

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References

Each section serves a specific purpose and contributes to the overall coherence of the paper.

## Step 1: Choosing a Research Topic

Selecting a compelling topic is the first and perhaps most critical step in writing a research paper. Here are some tips to help you choose a suitable topic:

### Identify Your Interests

Consider subjects that genuinely interest you. Writing about a topic you are passionate about will keep you motivated throughout the research and writing process.

## **Conduct Preliminary Research**

Do some initial reading to gauge the available literature. This will help you identify gaps in the existing research and refine your topic further.

## **Narrow Your Focus**

Once you have a broad topic in mind, narrow it down to a specific question or hypothesis. A focused research question will guide your research and writing.

## **Step 2: Conducting Research**

Once you have your topic, it's time to gather information. Effective research is crucial for writing a credible paper.

## **Utilize Academic Resources**

Make use of various academic resources, such as:

- Scholarly journals
- Books
- Theses and dissertations
- Conference papers
- Online databases

These resources provide reliable and relevant information that can strengthen your argument.

## **Take Notes**

As you research, take detailed notes. Organize your notes by theme or topic, which will make it easier to reference them later. Be sure to note down the sources for your citations.

# Step 3: Creating an Outline

An outline serves as a roadmap for your research paper, helping you to organize your thoughts and structure your work logically.

## Drafting the Outline

When creating your outline, consider the following structure:

### 1. Introduction

- Background information
- Thesis statement

### 2. Literature Review

- Summary of existing research
- Identification of gaps

### 3. Methodology

- Research design
- Data collection methods

### 4. Results

- Presentation of findings

### 5. Discussion

- Interpretation of results
- Implications

## 6. Conclusion

- Restate thesis
- Suggestions for future research

## 7. References

This outline will help ensure you cover all necessary points in your paper.

# Step 4: Writing the Draft

With your outline in hand, you can start writing the first draft of your research paper.

## Introduction

The introduction should provide background information on your topic, present your thesis statement, and outline the structure of your paper. Aim to engage the reader's interest right from the start.

## Literature Review

In this section, summarize and synthesize the existing research related to your topic. Highlight key findings and how they relate to your research question.

## Methodology

Describe the methods you used to conduct your research. Be specific about your research design, data collection techniques, and any analytical tools employed.

## Results

Present the findings of your research clearly and concisely. Use tables, charts, and graphs where appropriate to illustrate your points.

## **Discussion**

Interpret your results in the context of the existing literature. Discuss any limitations of your study and suggest areas for further research.

## **Conclusion**

Summarize the key points of your paper, restate the significance of your research, and suggest practical applications or implications.

## **Step 5: Revising and Editing**

Once you have completed your first draft, it's time to revise and edit your work.

### **Take a Break**

After finishing your draft, take a break before you start revising. This will help you approach your work with a fresh perspective.

### **Review Structure and Content**

Check for logical flow and coherence. Ensure that each section transitions smoothly to the next and that your thesis is consistently supported throughout.

### **Proofread for Grammar and Style**

Carefully proofread your paper for grammatical errors, punctuation mistakes, and stylistic inconsistencies. Consider using tools like Grammarly or Hemingway Editor for assistance.

### **Seek Feedback**

Before finalizing your paper, seek feedback from peers or mentors. They can provide valuable insights and help identify areas for improvement.

## **Step 6: Finalizing and Submitting Your Paper**

After making the necessary revisions, it's time to finalize your paper.

## **Format According to Guidelines**

Ensure your paper adheres to the formatting guidelines provided by your institution (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). Pay attention to citation styles and reference lists.

## **Submit Your Paper**

Once everything is in order, submit your research paper according to your instructor's guidelines. Make sure to keep a copy for your records.

## **Conclusion**

Writing a research paper may seem daunting at first, but by following these structured steps, you can simplify the process. From selecting a topic to finalizing your draft, each stage is crucial in crafting a compelling paper. Remember, practice makes perfect; the more research papers you write, the more proficient you will become. Embrace the journey of learning and let your passion for knowledge shine through your work.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the essential components of a research paper?**

A research paper typically consists of the following components: an abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, and references.

### **How do I choose a research topic?**

To choose a research topic, consider your interests, the relevance to your field, the availability of resources, and any gaps in existing research. Brainstorm ideas and refine them into a specific question.

### **What is the importance of a thesis statement in a research paper?**

The thesis statement is crucial as it presents the main argument or claim of your paper. It guides the direction of your research and helps readers understand the purpose of your study.

### **How can I effectively organize my research paper?**

To organize your research paper effectively, create an outline that includes all main sections and points. Use headings and subheadings, and ensure a logical flow of ideas. Each section should





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