

RESEARCH PAPER

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Class Name

Day/month/year

Title

A research paper begins with an introductory paragraph and can be written in MLA, APA, or Chicago style format. Be sure to clarify your topic with your teacher and find out which style you should be using. If you are using MLA format, you will use: margins, indentations, Times New Roman style, size 12 font and double spaced lines. Your research paper may be one where you state a thesis after examining work that has been published and find support for your idea. Your paper could also be one where you develop an original idea after examining all that has been published. You will introduce your research topic and give background in the introductory paragraph. Make sure to include a thesis statement at the end of the introduction. The thesis statement should reflect the purpose of the research.

You will argue your thesis in the next three body paragraphs. Each paragraph must begin with a topic sentence that explains what you will be discussing in that paragraph. You will most likely have several sources from your research, so be sure to organize and keep track of your data. When you cite information in your MLA paper, do so like this: (Author's Last name, page cited). Put quotations after the period if the citation is a direct quote.

It's always good to insert quotes where needed to support your information. If the quotation is four or more lines, it is set off from the text and doesn't use quotation marks. For example:

It's important to have direct quotes in your research paper. Direct quotes will strengthen your thesis. You can write your quote after indenting two times without any quotes around the sentence.

Remember you must always cite where you got the quote from, the page number, and who said it by doing this. (Madison, 16)

After you've argued your thesis statement, your last paragraph will be a conclusion. Recap anything you find important in your paper. In your conclusion you should always restate your thesis statement in different terms.

Works Cited

Remember to have a works cited page listed alphabetically in MLA format, citing ALL of the works you used in your research paper. Try using the acronym PAID for constants of all works cited.

P = Period at the end (always the last thing, even after the web address).

A = Alphabetically arranged by the first important word in the entry (This could be first letter of last name OR first word of title, omitting the articles that begin with "a, an, the")

I = Indent every line after the first. (The inverse or opposite of a paragraph)

D = Double-space every line within AND between the entries. Dates are written like this: 15 August 2008.

Article:

Last name, First name. "Title of an Article." Title of a Scholarly Journal Volume.
Issue (Year) : pages.

Book:

Last name, First name. Title of Book. City: Publisher, year.

Website:

The name of a website. The date it was published or revised. The name of the organization affiliated with the site. The date you accessed the site <The electronic address>.

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