

**A SIMPLE OUTLINE  
ABOUT HOW TO WRITE  
YOUR RESEARCH PAPER  
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# What is writing?

According to Webster(2015:online), writing can be seen as “the activity or work of writing books, poems, stories, etc”.

“the way that you use written words to express your ideas or opinions”.

Another definition about writing is given by (Nordquist, 2015:online) as the “forms of expository and argumentative prose used by students and researchers to convey a body of information about a particular subject”.

Most students find that writing a research paper is the toughest challenge they face in order to earn their college degree. It is time consuming and brain draining. But at the end, it is one of the unforgettable moments students treasure.

# Difficulties

The most common difficulties are related to the following factors

1. Time
2. References
3. Plan and organization
4. Citation

- A research paper

It is an expanded essay that presents our own interpretation, evaluation or argument.

When you write an essay, you use everything that you personally know and have thought about a subject. When you write a research paper you build upon what you know about the subject and make a deliberate attempt to find out what experts know. A research paper involves surveying a field of knowledge in order to find the best possible information in that field (i.e sources).

- Tips for writing research paper:
- Select a topic that inspires you
- Find reliable sources
- Organize your notes
- Brainstorm a substantial outline
- Write a first draft
- Read through first draft and re-write
- Edit

- ◉ How to write a research paper?
- ◉ *The Introduction:*
- ◉ The introduction is an important part of your research paper. you should accomplish the following:
  - ◉ 1. Capture the interest of the reader.
  - ◉ State your research question clearly and explain why we should care about the answer.
  - ◉ 3. Preview your argument and conclusions and provide a roadmap through the paper- let the reader know where you are going and what to expect. Reference to specific sections may be helpful here.



- Explain the value-added in your study. Are you evaluating an argument in a new empirical domain? Where does your work fit in the established literature and what is new about it?
- **The Body**

### ***The Literature Review:***

- A literature review should not be merely a technical reporting of what has been done before, but a creative organization of past work that helps to frame and build your argument

- ◉ ***The Conclusion:***

- ◉ In the conclusion, you should accomplish these goals:

- ◉ 1. Summarize what the reader has learned. What did you argue and what did the evidence show?

- ◉ 2. Discuss directions for future research. What does this project lead you to believe must be studied in the future? Did your analysis raise new questions? Were there things that you would have liked to be able to evaluate but were unable to?

- ◉ 3. Explain why your work was important. How did it advance scholarship and normative goals?

○ ***The particulars:***

○ Your research paper should be:

○ 1. Typed.

○ 2. Double spaced.

○ 3. In a reasonable font size (i.e., 11 or 12 point) with reasonable (i.e., approximately 1") margins.

○ 4. numbered.

○ 5. Preceded by a title page with a meaningful title

○ 6. Divided into sections with appropriate subheadings.

○ 7. cited.

○ 8. Written with excellent grammar, spelling, and style. Mechanics of writing (commas, ...etc)

## **Recommendations:**

**1. The first thing you want to do is give yourself enough time to work. Write a quick schedule to help you keep track of time: list the days you will be able to work. Do little preliminary research in the library to make sure , there is enough available material on your topic. Give about a month to adequately collect the library books and materials.**

**2. In taking notes, you have to make sure you include authors' names, date and page number. Also, write down all the bibliography information in the proper form for your reference list or bibliography. This will help you identify footnotes and citations and make typing the references easier.**

- 3. Be sure that your paper will only be as good as the outline you write for it.**
- 4. It's good to have a lot of pertinent quotes when you finished, but keep in mind that no more than 10-15% of your finished paper should be quotations.**

**5. When you've finished the paper, take some time for yourself before you re-read it. Make sure your quotes and citations are accurate.**