

Components of a Major Research Paper



Title Page (1 page*)

- title (top, centre); author, course, school, and date (bottom, right)

Introduction (0.5 - 1 page)

- grab attention, set theme and tone
- perhaps tell a relevant story

Thesis (0.5 - 1 page)

- summarize the issue to be discussed, break it down into a set of 3 or 4 proofs

Background Information (2 - 3 pages)

- information to provide context about the issue
- organized chronologically or into themes
- not where the proofs to the thesis are to be discussed

Discussion (3 - 4 pages)

- prove your thesis based on your pre-established arguments

Implications (1-2 pages)

- now that you've proved your thesis, discuss your conclusion's relevance to the real world
- identify areas for further research by others

Methodology (1 - 1.5 pages)

- how the research for the paper was carried out
- how the subjects and readings were selected

Conclusion / Summary (0.5 - 1 page)

- summarize the proofs and implications that you proved
- make relevant conclusions

References (as long as necessary, beginning on a new page)

- from a variety of media (journals, newspapers, magazines, texts, internet, multimedia)
- list all sources whose information is contained in the body of the paper
- source each piece of information that is not your own original idea using embedded references by including the following information at the end of the sentence (Last Name, Year).
- properly format your list of reference (locate and follow a style guide; see the sample below for basic structure)

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. (Year of Publication) *Title of Publication*. City of Publication: Publisher.

*With the exception of the title page (always 1 full page), the page numbers suggested above are for a 10 page paper (not including appendices). For a shorter or longer paper, multiply or divide each section's suggested page length by the appropriate fraction (e.g. for a 15 page paper, multiply each section's suggested page length by 1.5).