

# Research Paper Guidelines

## **Introduction:**

- This should be a paragraph that introduces the reader to your topic.
- An interesting fact can be used to start this introduction; just make sure your fact is still relevant to your paper
- Be sure not to state too much information in the introduction. Leave your facts for your body paragraphs.
- The introduction can be vague as long as you develop your ideas in the body paragraphs.
- The intro should flow from broad to specific ideas (ending with the thesis statement).
- It must include your thesis statement.

## **Body: You must have AT LEAST 3 body paragraphs.**

- Introduce the main point or idea of your body paragraph.
- Support that main idea with evidence or facts that you have found in your research
- Use in-text citations (according to APA style formatting) to cite sources of information where it's being used; not original thought or 'common knowledge'
- Use transitional terms/phrases to tie your facts/evidence together and help your paper 'flow'. DO NOT JUST STATE FACT AFTER FACT!!!

## **Conclusion:**

- Your conclusion should briefly summarize the main point of your paper and each of your body paragraphs (tie in all the information into one 'flowing' conclusive paragraph)
- End with a statement that will make your reader either continue to think about your topic or make them feel accomplished.

## **References:**

- It is expected that you use a proper formatting style to generate your References page. Using the Microsoft Office application (formatting to APA style) is the best way! It sets up the paper automatically for both in-text citations and the references page! ☺
- You must have at least 5 reputable sources; 2 of them must be non-internet sources.
- Search engines, encyclopedias, and dictionaries (online or not) are NOT valid sources.

## **All final papers will be typed:**

- ✓ It is expected that all students will use APA style when typing their research papers. Visit <http://apastyle.apa.org> for more information. The tutorial on the site is an excellent resource to understand this type of formatting for a research paper.)
- ✓ The length of the paper should include:
  - 1 title page (set up according to proper format: APA)
  - 2-3 FULL pages for research paper (minimum).
  - 1 References (APA) page
- ✓ **NEVER** use the words **I** or **me** in your paper. (no pronouns!)
- ✓ **Use 12 point** Times New Roman or Arial fonts.