

# RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper is the final product of a culmination of research, critical thought, evaluation,

## TYPES OF RESEARCH PAPERS

There are two types of research papers: Argumentative and Analytical.

### Argumentative Research Paper

An Argumentative Research paper takes a side and attempts through research, and persuasive argument, to prove that side. The topic and the side the writer is defending are introduced in the introduction of the paper. Topics for argumentative research papers need to be current, controversial, and debatable.

An example thesis for an argumentative research paper might look like this:

Although school uniforms are said to have multiple benefits, disadvantages such as the restriction of creativity, the promotion of conformity over individuality, and the inability to decrease school crime and bullying outweigh the potential benefits.

### Analytical Research Paper

An Analytical Research paper's purpose is to offer a new perspective on a topic. An Analytical Research paper is usually exploratory and evaluative. Therefore, an analytical research paper thesis might look like this:

Sherlock Holmes is often considered the best detective of all time; however, this status would not have been attained without his trusty sidekick Watson. Watson not only functions as a stand-in reader, asking the questions that the reader should ask, but also as a foil for Sherlock to amplify his almost superhuman intelligence and sub-human social skills.

## WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

After you have determined which type of essay you are writing, next is to actually write the essay. The following is a step-by-step process to write a research paper.

1. Pick a topic (If you are having trouble finding a topic for a research paper, visit the library, and ask for an opposing viewpoints book, or visit the Writing Center and brainstorm with a tutor for a few minutes.
2. Identify the audience  
The audience of your paper will have a significant impact on the content of your paper. Be sure to ask the following questions
  - a. Who is my general audience?
  - b. What audience will be most interested in my work?
  - c. What about my topic interests my audience?
  - d. What counter arguments should I be prepared to answer
3. Where do I begin?
  - a. Research – do a significant amount of research on your topic so you understand what you are writing about
  - b. Outline – create a bulleted list of the topics and points you wish to cover in your essay
  - c. Draft - Expound on your bullet points. Make them into sentences and paragraphs
  - d. Revise, Edit, and Proofread – Go through your rough draft and fix content mistakes and clear up any confusion
  - e. Final Draft – fix any and all grammar issues