

Getting Started on the First Draft

The Research Paper:

- 5 to 8 Pages (At least 5 full pages)
- In-text citations are required (MLA format)
- No Works Cited page is required at this time
- Use of at least 5 sources (This does not include your personal interview)

Before you can write, you need to establish what the different sub-topics of your paper are. Think about how your topic can be broken down into different pieces. You were given a separate worksheet for this. Looking at these different areas of your research topic, you need to figure out how to put these into logically arranged paragraphs. Below you will find a guide to the basic format of a research paper. There is no paragraph requirement, but I would recommend **5-7** total paragraphs.

Introductory Paragraph

- Hooks the reader
- Leads into the overall topic
- Includes the thesis statement as the last sentence

Body Paragraphs (these make up the bulk of your paper)

- Includes a topic sentence that addresses what the paragraph is about (the topic sentence always supports the thesis)
- Has evidence and support that supports the topic sentence (these are direct quotes and paraphrased information)
- Contains thoughtful analysis and commentary

Conclusion Paragraph

- Restates the thesis statement (in a different way)
- Provides a lasting thought
- Provides closing commentary