

Comprehensive Guide On How To Write A Research Paper

If you have ever felt pressured because you had no idea how to collate the data you had for your first research paper, we've got you covered! Discover how to write a research paper from Edusson!

Write A Perfect Research Paper In 7 Steps

The most appropriate way to define a **research** paper is it is an advanced form of an essay that details the findings, conclusions, and steps taken towards investigating a specific occurrence, condition, or trend in a target group/population. Creating a **paper** is never an easy task, and many students who have had to write one will agree.

A lot goes into creating a valid **research paper thesis** that captivates the readers' attention and gets them engaged in the activities that were carried out during the study. The preparation, collection of data, sorting, **citation**, and referencing are arduous tasks that ritelycould take several days to several weeks. Furthermore, research papers require students to immerse themselves in the topic and develop a close relationship with the research. Considering the responsibilities connected to creating a **draft** for a good quality paper worthy of publication, our team decided to put together a comprehensive guide offering details on **how to write a research paper** worth grading and referencing by others. We will look at a number of steps that can guide every student towards writing a publication-worthy piece.

Step 1: Choose Your Topic

Before setting out to delve into **research writing**, the foremost thing to do is to choose a topic. The topic focuses the whole study, and every argument, discussion, or highlight has to reflect it as the main focus. People are usually more prone to do a study on what fuels their passion – poverty, computers, human rights, and many more. There are several questions one must consider when choosing an investigative **topic**.

Ask Questions

It is important to ask questions when considering a theme. Making appropriate inquiries helps subsequently in forming a solid **structure** on which you can base your whole work.

Questions that should be asked include:

- Am I ready to take extra steps towards this issue?
- Does the issue genuinely fuel my passion?
- Would I find relevant information if I choose to **write** on this issue?

Be Original

Do not follow the trend or try to impress your instructor by choosing a topic that is of no valuable relevance to you. You will struggle to make it a reality because it doesn't appeal to you. To fully enjoy **writing a research paper**, you have to be yourself. Do not be afraid of trying new things within the scope of your task.

Ask For Advice

We all need guidance at some moment to complete this task. Do not be shy to ask for advice or for a research paper example if you need to. It will help deal with any doubts you have, especially if as a **student** you have never done this before.

Change The Topic If It Is Necessary

If you discover your preferred study has very little information, and you are a **college** student trying to work with secondary data under a time constraint, you should look for a topic with much more relevant data available for your level. If there are no further **questions** to ask – switch to another topic as soon as you can.



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Step 2: Do Research

Now that you have chosen a topic, the next step is to go into further investigation of the issue. The objective – to find out what has been written on this topic. You need to know what aspects of this topic have been addressed, and those that haven't been touched. Depending on the direction of your **writing**, there is a number of sources you can access.

Empirical research

Empirical research has to do with an evidence-based study. This option is very accommodating towards writing a **college research paper** as the only requirement is to use sources based on the experiences of others.

Library sources

The library forever remains a **perfect** source of credible information. Hard-copy journals and books provide infallible information and you have the chance to get accustomed with the **format** of writing an article for hard-copy publications.

Online sources

Although not always trustworthy, online websites are **good** sources of articles that are no longer in print. This is useful for comparison purposes between outdated and present information.

Academic databases

With academic databases, you can access high-calibre publications for no extra cost. Some of the available databases even provide subtle tips to students on **how to do a research paper** on any subject.

Step 3: Prepare Your Thesis Statement

Having carefully reviewed the information sourcing that fits your work, the next step is to prepare your **thesis** statement. This is simply a description of your whole work, in two or three sentences. This means it has to be concise, give an impact and be a **statement** that fully covers the objective of the study.

Step 4: Write your research paper outline

Writing your **research paper outline** is one of the defining parts of your paper. If you have never written such an outline before, you can always check online for research paper outline ideas as related to various research categories. This step involves a number of smaller to-do tasks which we look at next.

Organize your notes

Notes are helpful especially if the main article has to follow a specific word count. Keeping notes in an organized manner helps adhere to the default **research paper structure** on the ground. It also makes you less likely to get confused by your own work.

Prepare references page

References are an essential part of any academic work because you always have to prove the information you use has a reliable source. One may ask, “Do I need to use a particular reference style when I want to write my research paper?” The answer depends on if your instructor gives you a preferred style for **references** or not. If he or she doesn't, we usually advise people to use the style that reflects the closest governing body able to tackle the issues raised in the article e.g. a medicine-themed piece can use the American Medical Association (AMA) referencing style.

Determine the goals of the paper

This is where a prepared **outline** will be of great help. Your paper should seek to do one of the following:

- Support or oppose an existing thought on an issue;
- Raise a different perspective to consider the issue;
- Address other aspects related directly or indirectly to what is being discussed. Knowing the exact goal you want to write about is useful in helping you search for information, as well as prepare the appropriate **research paper format**. The former aids you in conserving time while searching for data, and the latter amplifies the way you organize each sentence and **paragraph**.

Step 5: Prepare your first draft

Now we move to combine the previous four parts and draft out a rough sketch of the paper. This is more like laying the foundation before building. Now is where the real work begins as we layout all the materials we've been collecting in the planning stage.

If your previous steps were done carefully and with precision, preparing your first draft won't be a complex issue. However, if you have a large amount of information to fit in and you need to decide which data holds more relevance to the discussion at hand you could have some difficulties. but this can always be dealt with.

The draft of your research should have the following sections:

Introduction

Like any other opening remark, the duty of your **research paper introduction** is to give a brief but eye-catching overview of the issue you want to write on. You could use a number of methods like statistics, recent facts, or highlights from previous research. Any of these elements you use in your discussion must reflect a need to contribute to the centerpiece of your study.

The **introduction** should not give the whole article away but provide enough details to captivate the reader's attention.

If you are not sure of what this section should look like, you can always check out a research paper introduction example on academic sites or request a sample from your instructor.

Body Paragraphs

Now we get to the main text.

- Paragraph organization: If your ideas are connected to each other you should consider arranging your points in a cascading motion i.e. your present idea should connect to the previous one. This helps maintain continuity and show a high level of organization. – Hitting the idea on the head: Do not jump around one idea endlessly; you will end up repeating yourself more than needed. Seek to explain your interpretation of literature in a professional way. You must demonstrate you have relevant reasons supporting the train of thoughts you chose to follow.
- Avoid vague sentiments: If you feel you do not have enough data to support a particular statement, instead of conjuring your own assertions you can mention the lack of evidence based on your perception of the statement. This is a bit tricky because you won't be able to show concrete evidence. It's best to stick to statements that can be backed up with facts. – In-text citations: Most texts require cited resources, however we advise students to use it for all papers even if not specified. This helps avoid deductions due to plagiarism and demonstrates you've conducted a level of research. Furthermore, it improves the strength of your paper as it demonstrates where ideas were derived.
- Rephrasing: Plagiarism is a serious issue with any academic paper. Do not copy and paste directly from your sources – instead rephrase ideas so the original context isn't lost, yet it's not close to the original words used in the source.

Conclusion

Please note – a **conclusion** is not the place to add ideas! It's a closing section, aimed at wrapping up what has been discussed. Your **research paper conclusion** should not confuse the reader or deviate from the path carved out by the preceding sections. Rather, it should create a culminative effect combining all the text had stated in detail. It should also compress the papers into a few sentences where the lessons learned from the process can be addressed as well.

References

Your last page should be for referencing. There is a difference between creating a citation list and a bibliography. Be certain to know which your instructor requires. Also, keep in mind the

required citation style, and cross-check the reliability of your sources, especially the ones found online.

Step 6: Revise your draft

With this step you get to polish your content, dust off any embarrassing details, and make it as pristine as possible. Revising your draft includes:

Check for content mistakes

It is common to make errors especially when typing fast. However, be sure to thoroughly scan your work to fish out any spelling mistakes that might hamper the quality of your ideas.

Check for grammar mistakes

1. Is my thesis presentable and straight-to-the-point?
2. Did I cut corners on my outline? Did I omit any important details?
3. Are my highlights logically presentable?
4. Are all my citations properly identified and documented?
5. Have I defended my thesis by showing the strengths of my argument?
6. Would anyone reading my essay understand what I'm talking about?

This is also a common occurrence. Your tenses must be in order especially if they are describing something to be done or already done that has a substantial influence on a suggestion given in the essay. You could ask your friends to give you a hand or use an online grammar and spellings checker.

Step 7: Write a research paper

1. Did I make proper use of topic sentences?
2. Have I provided relevant evidence to support all my ideas?
3. Did I include any clauses that might be confusing?
4. Are my sentence lengths properly mixed?
5. Are there any watery or unnecessary words?
6. Do my paragraphs connect to each other?
7. Any mistakes in diction or lexis?
8. Are my quotes clear and concise? Straight to the point?
9. Are all my references in a consistent format?
10. Did I avoid using slang or jargon, and stick to the full forms of words?
11. Did I use third person as much as possible? Did I avoid using vague and unsure clauses?

12. Was the delivery of my opinions professional and appealing all at once?
13. Did I conclude the paper for my audience?

Now that everything has been checked, tweaked, reassessed and polished up, you can now proceed and write the paper. Be mindful of the mistakes you have corrected.

Conclusion

Now, when someone asks you “**What is a research paper?** Is it something I can attempt lightly?” You can brief them as well as use the information here to write your own work when needed.



Finally, If you still have any difficulties in writing a perfect Research paper, do not hesitate to contact **Edusson** and ask for Help. Our professional writer’s team is always ready to help with your research paper, from initial topic to final draft!

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