

Research Paper Format

ESSENTIAL RULES!

- No “I”s or “you”s - write from the 3rd person
- Include a minimum of 4 pages
- Double space
- 12 point, regular font
- EDIT, EDIT, and EDIT
- USE YOUR CARDS!!

Part 1: Introduction

Introduction = 1/2 to 1 page (No more, no less)

Include the following:

- A description of the problem being investigated; **NOT** a question.
- How (*not why*) the experimenter (you!) selected this problem; what reading or experience or process led to selection of this problem
- Why this is a useful/interesting/important question to investigate.

Part 2: Previous Research

Previous Research = at least 1/2 to 1 page

Include the following:

- What has been done by others in this field, or on related topics?
- Cite specific experiments, 3 or 4 that you have read about.
- For each include a short 3-4 sentence summary indicating what was done (the problem), what they found out (result, conclusion), and who did it.
- Be sure to give the reference information and page numbers.
- **DO NOT** list or give numbered steps. This section is **ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT**.
- Tie this previous research in with your project by telling how it led to or influenced your hypothesis.
- Include your hypothesis!!!
- **HIGHLIGHT** your hypothesis in some way (use CAPS or bold words...make it clear!)

Part 3: Techniques & Resources

Techniques & Resources = 1/2 - 3/4 page

Include the following:

- Write a *synopsis* of your experiment
- **DO NOT** write a numbered procedure
- Write a paragraph summary of what you will do (to revise after conducting the experiment) - or what you might tell a friend about how you were going to conduct your experiment, but in more formal language.
- Describe the techniques that must be mastered in order for you to conduct this experiment, and a discussion of the resources and assistance that might be required.

Part 4: Core Science Knowledge

Core Sci. Knowledge: 25% of paper (>1 page)

Include the following:

- Core scientific information that you need as background to understand the specific research papers and technical information that you used in planning and conducting your experiment.
- The info should relate directly to your particular research project, not be vaguely in the same area.
- Get this info from science texts, journals, other books and periodicals, web sites, encyclopedias, scientists and any other references you can find.
- This section should not be more than 20% - 25% of your total paper. Thus, if your paper is 5 pages, this section should be no more than 1-1 1/2 pages.
- This is **NOT** filler; only truly necessary and related information should be included.
- You **MUST** understand what you write, and be able to explain it in your own words.
- No copying: **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** (teachers can always tell the difference!)
- Look up unfamiliar vocabulary.

Part 5: Conclusion

Conclusion = at least 1/2 page

Include the following:

- Summary of key points that were made in above sections
- Do not use the same words (boring!), instead, revamp your thoughts, what is the take home message?
- Include relevant and key research that led to the hypothesis (one of the three or four described earlier)
- Finally, finish with a simple ending.

Research Paper Due Dates

- **Rough Draft Due: Fri. 10/3**
 - Include your MLA bibliography
 - Prepare these papers for peer-editing
- **Final Draft Due: Wed. 10/10**
 - Must include **PERFECT** and **COMPLETE** MLA Bibliography