



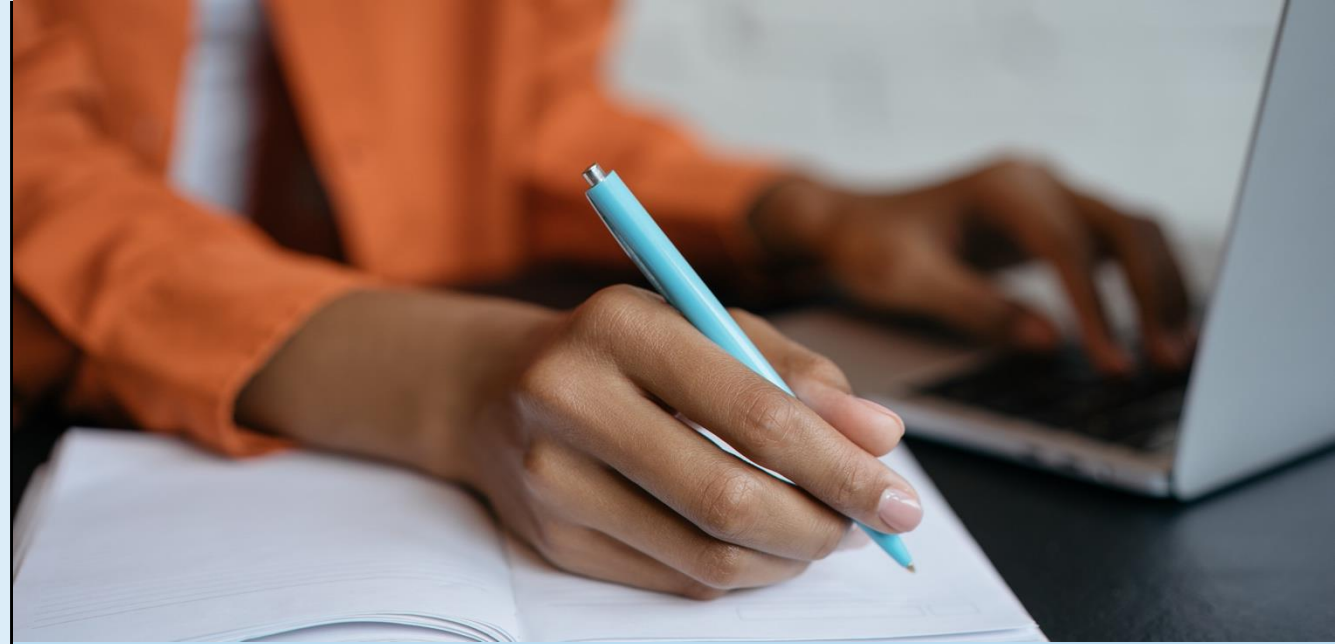
WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW



- Understand the Assignment
- Find a Topic
- Gather Research
- Write the Outline
- Drafting
- Final Draft

- Requires you to critically think about, evaluate, organize, and compose
- An assignment or project that grows over time as you interact with other sources
- Varies in length
- Is generally written on a topic decided by your professor



WHAT EVEN *IS* A RESEARCH PAPER?

Review the assignment and
carefully read the writing prompt

Important things to note:

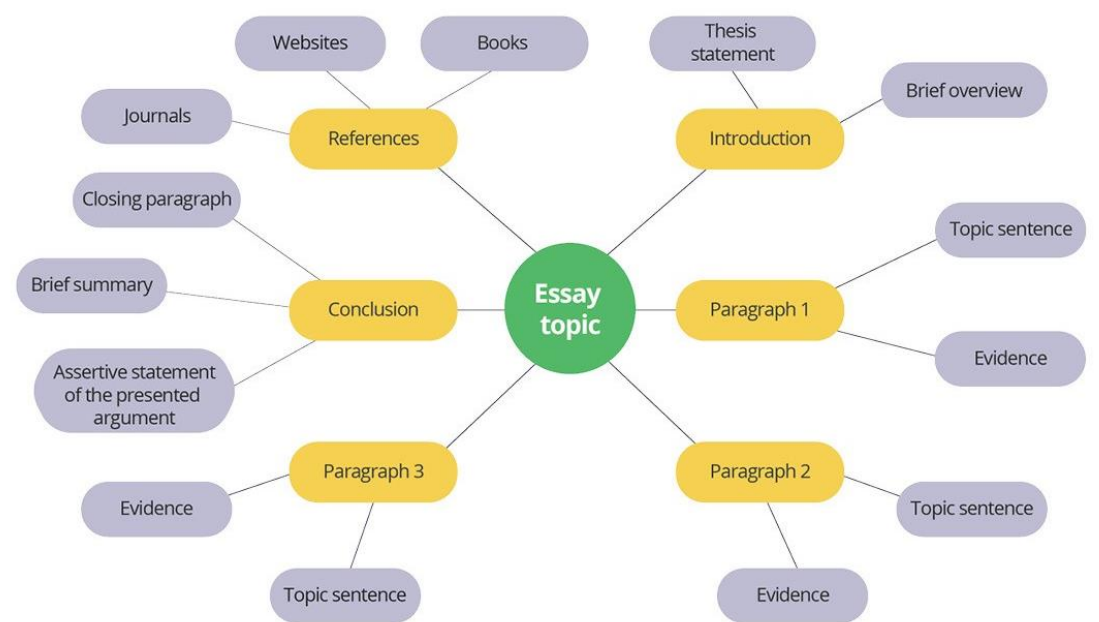
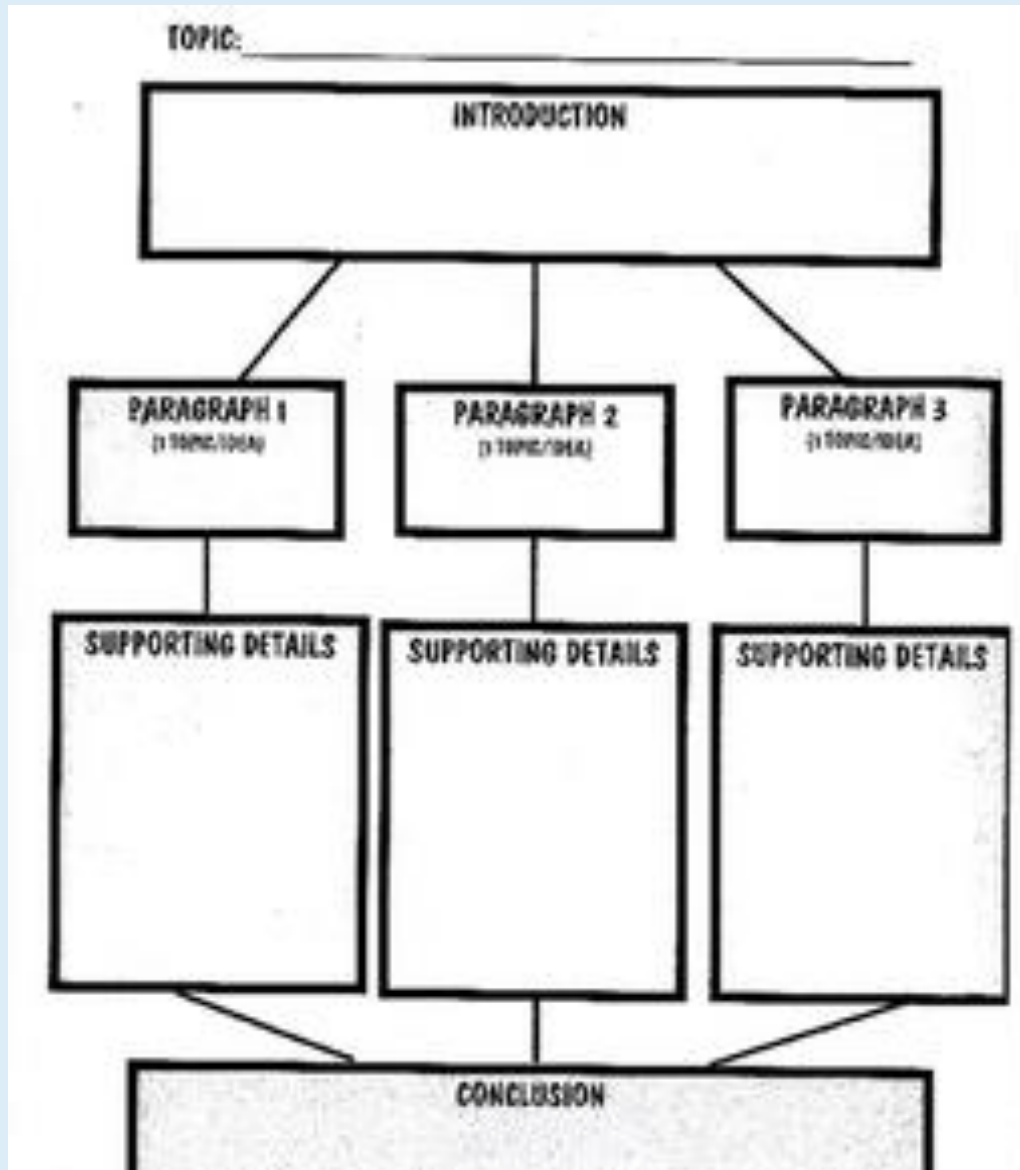
- Paper length
 - By word or by page
 - Exactly this # or between #-#
- Citation and Paper formatting style
 - MLA, APA, Chicago
- Number & types of sources allowed/needed
 - Websites, books, articles
- DUE DATE(S)
 - 1 dues date for everything or different dates for each step? (Proposal, draft, Annotated Bibliography, Final paper)
- Who is your audience?



UNDERSTANDING THE ASSIGNMENT

FIND A TOPIC

- Thinking early leads to starting early.
 - **Brainstorming** is often a successful way for students to get some ideas down on paper.
 - Avoid **general topics**
 - Will the topic you choose provide enough content & substance for an **entire** research paper?
 - Choose a topic with enough data & complexity to enable a rich discussion.
 - Keep in mind that the initial topic you come up with, may not be the **exact** topic you end up writing about.
 - Research topics are fluid
 - Dictated more by your ongoing **research** than by the original chosen topic
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TYPES OF BRAINSTORMING

FROM TOPIC TO RESEARCH

- You may want to choose a question that your paper will answer
 - When you are researching, you are looking for something specific.
 - The answer that you find to this question may ultimately become your thesis statement.
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THE RESEARCH STAGE

- Use a wide variety of sources (Internet articles/books, physical books, journals)
 - Make sure you use credible sources like **science journals** or **academic papers**.
- Allow yourself enough time to research.
- Keep copies of all the sources you plan to use, including URLs and citations (if provided)
- Make note about specific conclusions that you are drawing from the material.
- Look specifically for details that support your thesis or question

Places to find Credible Research:

- **LSC Library Database**
- **EBSCO**
- **Gale**
- **Google Scholar**
- **Jstor**
- **.org, .gov, .edu websites**
 - Not all will be credible look closely

OUTLINING

Group your notes together & match information that fits together.

Introduction paragraph: Thesis Statement as last sentence

- I. Body Paragraph # (# main point)
 - I. Sentence 1: Topic sentence: what is this paragraph about?
 - II. Supporting evidence and ideas
 - I. Give reasons, facts, proof, statistics, quotes (with citations).
 - II. Analyze your supporting evidence.
 - I. Why does your evidence matter? What does it mean?
 - II. Transition to the next point.
 - III. Summarize and transition to your next paragraph.
- II. Conclusion: 1st sentences in a reworded version of the thesis statement

DRAFTING

- **Introduction:**
 - If you don't know how to write an introduction the beginning can be difficult. Start with an attention grabbing sentence.
 - Fill out the rest of your introduction with the secondary information, & end with your thesis statement.
 - Save the details for the body paragraphs
- **Body Paragraphs:**
 - The bulk of your research paper
 - Divide the body into sections
 - Use the divisions in your outline as a guide.
 - **Cite your sources**
- **Conclusion:**
 - Restate **your thesis**, **reiterate your main evidence**, and **summarize your findings** in a way that's easy to understand.
 - **Don't add any new information in your conclusion.**

USE TRANSITION SENTENCES

FINAL DRAFT

After the initial draft start your final draft. Your final draft should:

- 1. Have very few errors**
 - 2. A clear organization**
 - 3. Formatted correctly**
- Citing your sources correctly
 - Check the assignment to see which formatting style is required.
 - MLA
 - APA
 - Chicago Style
 - Author + Date
 - Notes + Bib
 - Edit & Proofread
 - Structural Edits
 - Word choice, grammar, spelling

RESOURCES

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/research_papers/index.html

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/academic-writing/how-to-write-a-research-paper/>

<https://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/documents/support/tutoring/cwc/6-Simple-Steps-for-Writing-a-Research-Paper.pdf>



THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?