

Research Paper

The Research Paper is the last major assignment for *Writing Your Way through Purdue*. In this paper, you will **argue** your position in regards to a topic you have **researched**. You will need to choose a subject to research that you enjoy, find out what others have said and are currently saying about this topic, and, after listening (or reading) their take on it, you need to add your own opinion to the public conversation.

Topic

The topic is largely up to you, though it will need to be tied to Purdue (or its community) in some way. Some suggestions include: researching an article published by a professor you want to study with for your major coursework; using an issue relevant to the student population; or working with Choose a topic that you are genuinely interested in, can reasonably cover in 7-8 pages, and keep in mind the two main characteristics of this assignment: **argument** and **research**.

Format

The paper must be 7-8 pages (not including the works cited page). Your paper must use Times New Roman, 12pt font; standard margins, MLA citations and works cited; last in the top right corner (header), and page number in the bottom right corner (footer).

List of Expectations:

- An introductory paragraph that introduces the audience to a specific topic, that clearly shows the issue or problem within that topic which the essay will address, and a well worded, concise **thesis** that establishes the papers argument.
- A clear structure (**logos**): the argument's parts are clearly defined and explored through the paper. **Paragraphs** are broken up correctly, navigates the reader, and logically **outlines** the argument. At all times, it must be clear to the audience what you are talking about and what point you are trying to make.
- 6 source minimum (though you will have more for your Annotated Bibliography), 3 of which must come from academic, scientific, or professional journals (i.e. not published on the web, though it may be found there).
- A research paper, in most contexts and in most of your academic careers, is a professional document and is never required reading. Therefore, your language should be sophisticated, **grammatically correct**, and create and maintain the audience's interest in your argument. **Sentences** and **paragraphs** should be well constructed.
- The essay should be **formatted** correctly and contain a **works cited** page. Any essay that without a works cited page will not be accepted.

Paper Due: Friday, April 25th at the end of class.