

The Research Paper: How to

- 1) Understand the assignment.
 - a. Analyze, report, or argue?
 - b. Who is the audience? <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/4/>
 - c. What are the requirements?
- 2) Choose a topic.
- 3) Create a working thesis. The following site includes more information about thesis statements:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/1/>
 - a. A thesis statement sums up the main idea of your paper. If you are having trouble understanding or creating your thesis statement, this is a perfect time to visit the LRC ☺!
- 4) Find and evaluate sources.
 - a. Remember to look at the assignment sheet to see what kinds of sources you need.
 - b. Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source for an academic paper.
 - c. Need help evaluating sources? Go here:
<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill20.html>
- 5) Write a first draft of your paper.
 - a. Integrate evidence from sources to support your thesis.
- 6) Revise.
 - a. Need a clear introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
 - b. Check organization within your essay.
 - i. Transitions.
 - ii. Good topic sentences.
 - c. Check organization within paragraphs.
 - d. Check for grammatical and sentence-level errors.
 - e. Check for plagiarism.
 - i. Have all words and ideas that are not your own been cited?
- 7) Write your final draft.
 - a. Check citations.
 - b. Note due date.

For a more in-depth look at these topics and an assignment research calculator (you input start date and due date of project and are then provided with due dates for each step of the process), please visit the following website: <http://ios.lib.csufresno.edu/arc/>*

*Please note that while this website is an excellent resource, any external links (Ask a Librarian, The Writing Center, Finding Resources) belong to this specific college. Visit the LRC and the Library at Aultman College for additional guidance/resources on any of these topics!

Formatting of APA **RESEARCH paper**: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> General APA Guidelines: Essay should be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with 1" margins on all sides. APA recommends using 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Include a **page header** at the top of every page. To create a **page header**, insert page numbers flush right. Then type "TITLE OF YOUR PAPER" in the header flush left. The APA research paper, **DEPENDING ON INSTRUCTOR'S REQUIREMENT'S**, should include four major sections: the Title Page, Abstract, Main Body, and References.

Title Page: title of paper, author's name, institutional affiliation. Include page header flush left with the page number flush right at the top of the page. Please note that on the title page, your page header should look like this:

Running head: TITLE OF YOUR PAPER

Pages after the title page should have a running head that looks like this: TITLE OF YOUR PAPER

Type your title in upper and lowercase letters centered in the upper half of the page. APA recommends that your title be no more than 12 words in length and that it should not contain abbreviations or words that serve no purpose. Your title may take up one or two lines. All text on the title page, and throughout your paper, should be double-spaced.

Beneath the title, type the author's name: first name, middle initial(s), and last name. Do not use titles (Dr.) or degrees (Ph.D.). Beneath the author's name, type the institutional affiliation, which should indicate the location where the author(s) conducted the research.

