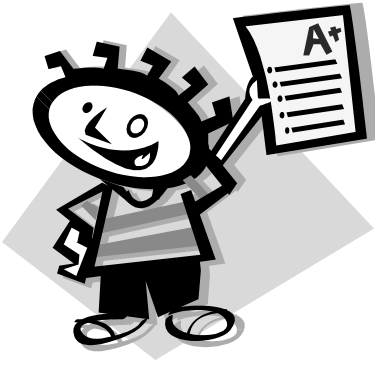


RESEARCH PAPER



Knowing how to write research papers is one of the most valuable skills you can take with you to college. No matter what your major, you will undoubtedly be asked to write at least one research paper in most of your classes. They may not always be quite as involved as this one will be, but this assignment will lay the groundwork for those future papers.

There are several steps to writing a good research paper. You must complete each of these steps. This is a long-term assignment, and further information about each step will be forthcoming.

Assignment	Points Possible	Due Date
Choose a general topic	15	
Create a working thesis	15	
Working outline	25	
Source cards (5)	25	
Note cards (25)	50	
Final thesis statement	15	
Formal outline	50	
First draft	100	
Final draft/paper package	200	

As you can see, this paper is a considerable portion of your grade this semester. Use this handout to keep track of due dates for each of these assignments. More handouts will be forthcoming detailing instructions for these assignments as we work on the paper. Put each of these handouts in your Composition section of your notebook.

It is imperative that you do each assignment for the Research Paper. Skipping an assignment will leave your paper with gaping holes. In addition, each assignment is due when noted. If you are absent and do not arrange to have your assignment brought to me when due, you will lose a letter day for each day the assignment is late. Weekends count—if an assignment was due on a Friday and turning in on a Monday, then you will lose three letter grades. However each part of the paper must be turned in with the final draft. My advice: simply do the work on time, no excuses.

You will need to procure the following items in order to complete this project:

- Lined 3x5 note cards - you need at least 30, but be prepared for “mess ups” and make sure you have more cards; you may also find you need to create more than 30 cards.
- A large envelope, at least 9x12.
- A rubber band for your note cards.

We will be using the following texts extensively:

- *A Writer’s Reference*, Diana Hacker (and companion website: <http://dianahacker.com/writersref>)
- *The Practical Stylist*, Sheridan Baker

You may find the following websites helpful, too.

- Basic Steps to Creating a Research Project: <http://www.crlsresearchguide.org/>
- A+ Research Writing for High School and College Students: <http://www.ipl.org/div/aplus/>
- Writing About Literature: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_lit.html