



# Mini Research Paper

Mrs. Lamon



# Purpose and Objective

No matter what college you attend, you will be taking a freshman writing course based on research; therefore, this condensed unit will help you prepare for the future.

Even if you do not plan to go to college, proving your point in a conversation is definitely a worthwhile skill.

Your job is to understand and replicate the following 4 steps to writing a research paper.

## Mini Research Paper Assignment

**Purpose:** You will be writing a researched term paper that effectively argues and proves your point of view on a past or present issue in society.

### Criteria:

- Use Times New Roman, 12 font, and MLA format.
- Write 2-3 pages in length, ending on at least the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> page, excluding the Works Cited page.
- Utilize 3<sup>rd</sup> person point of view.
- Implement at least 3 sources, one for each argument.
  - 2 or more sources must be scholarly and/or from GB databases (no exceptions)
  - Only 1 may be a .com or .net; unless you have more than 3 sources.
  - (If you discover a web source and there is no author or the author's credentials cannot be determined, then you should not use that source unless the page is maintained by a reputable organization. (.org, .gov, and .mil are usually fine))
- Adhere to the calendar for all due dates.
- Follow Grading Rubric.

# Research Paper Grading Rubric

**Very Weak**  
**0-3**

**Needs Improvement**  
**4-6**

**Average**  
**7-8**

**Proficient**  
**9**

**Distinguished**  
**10**

**Comments**

## **I. Purpose**

Strong Argumentative Thesis

\_\_\_\_\_

## **II. Development**

Details/Proof Reinforce Thesis

\_\_\_\_\_

Rebuttal of opposing side

\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Organization**

Paragraphing

(Topic Sentences)

(Concluding Statements) \_\_\_\_\_

Transitions \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Sentence Structure/Style**

Strong and precise vocabulary \_\_\_\_\_

Correct grammar, punctuation, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

**V. MLA Format**

Documentation and MLA format \_\_\_\_\_

High quality of sources (5 or more) \_\_\_\_\_

Integration of commentary \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

# A research paper begins with these 3 steps: Step 4 is revising your work.

1 | Chose an argumentative topic.

It must be controversial; someone could make a stand against it.

Your claim must be proven through researched and authoritative articles, not just google sources.

2 | Create an outline and write a rough draft with three main points.

Begin with an introduction that ends with a thesis statement.

Most claims have three proofs (arguments) of why they are correct. (3 body paragraphs)

End with a conclusion.

3 | Implement your cited research as proof.

The databases, contain articles that have evidence you can use as proof.

Use at least one piece of research to back up each argument. (3 pieces)

# Step 1

## **Topic Choice and Research Paper Thesis Statement**

You need to choose a topic that you can create an argument for and prove through your own commentary and research.

A great thesis statement gives your argument and becomes the basis of the entire paper. It must be able to stand alone; in other words, it must be very specific and forceful.

### **Criteria:**

- Stands as the last sentence of the introduction

- Uses forceful language

- Creates a strong argument to which all of your proof ties

### **Example:**

Topic: Gun control

Thesis Statement: Americans have a constitutional right to own handguns and stricter laws and licensing will not effectively save lives.

## Step 2

With this information in mind, you can use any outline format you choose in order to organize your paper.

Suggested outlines include Microsoft Word or Google docs outlines.

You can also use the outlines in the assignment section of the classroom.

All outlines include your thesis (argumentative claim), three points of proof, and a conclusion.

Your outline creates your rough draft.

# Model Outline

**INTRODUCTION:** For the outline give only the Thesis Statement, which is a clear and forceful argument.

**Thesis:** The legal drinking age for the United States should be lowered to eighteen because at this age people are considered adults who already may purchase nicotine products, gamble, and serve their country.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS:** Each body paragraph will address one of your main points; however, if you have more than one example of proof, you will need more than one body paragraph for that section.

**Point 1:** They may purchase nicotine products.

**Point 2:** They may gamble online and at casinos.

**Point 3:** They may serve their country in various capacities. Save your best argument for last!

**CONCLUSION:** A summary of your argument and main points

Reiterate your three main points and your thesis statement.

# Paper Format

You may use google docs or microsoft word. This is the format for word.  
ALL margins must be one inch; this includes top, bottom, and sides.

- Go to Page Layout/ Margins/Normal

ALL pages must have a header: your LAST name and the page number.

- Go to Insert/Page #/Top of page/ Plain #3/ type in your last name

Begin writing your paper, making sure that it is all double-spaced.

The next slide is a Model Introduction; it shows what the paper will look like.

Peyton Sawyer

# Model Introduction

Mrs. Lamon

English 12

9 June 2020

## *The Walking Dead* is Alive and Well

Why are zombies so popular in today's society? The answer is simple; they are highly entertaining and they create a suspenseful atmosphere. Therefore, many video games, movies, and television shows have joined the craze of using zombies within their productions in order to compete for viewers, awards, and profits. One such example is *The Walking Dead*, which is the best show on television because it contains realistic graphics, has the largest audience, and appeals to society's inherent violence in a positive way.

# Step 3

**Once you have a rough draft, begin searching for articles that support your arguments.**

**You must search for the most credible sources; therefore, googling articles will not do. You must use the databases to find the best sources.**

**Follow the procedure on the next slide in order to do your research.**

## Finding Sources for Research

The best sources will be found via (through) GB databases. Databases store newspaper, journal, and magazine articles. These databases also store electronic books, articles from the web, etc. In other words, a database is your “one-stop shopping” location.

### How to search:

- Go to our GB Lions website/ Jr. Sr. High School/ library.
- Hit LIBRARY BOOKS and then hit Database at the top of the site.
- Selct “Hello my name is Database.”
- View all of the topics under any heading (Health and Medicine) that interest you.
- You will find article abstracts (summaries) to help you decide if that is a source you may want.
- Click on the full article and read it. Print it or save it if you may want to use it.
- Databases to look at are OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS, SIRS ISSUES RESEARCHER, ACADEMIC ONE FILE, and GENERAL ONE FILE.
- If your database asks for a username and password, use this:  
Username-g1j  
Password-search
- Put your most important words, like gun laws, in quotation marks and hit the search icon.
- Research all of your findings, which will be broken up into: academic journals, magazines, newspapers, books, etc.
- Find the sources that best support the background and proof for your thesis.
- SAVE all of your sources!
- Copy and paste the sources’ information that you plan to use unto your Works Cited page.

## Sources and Citations

- **Everything (information that you put into your own words & quotes) that you take from a source must be cited.**
  - The Works Cited page is the last page of your paper, and all sources must follow their correct patterns.
  - This is the **generic** pattern for your Works Cited page that most, especially web articles, will follow.
    - Author. "Title." *Source*. Sponsor, Date. URL. Date Accessed.
  - It will look something like this:
    - Harris, Rob, and Andrew C. Revkin. "Clinton on Climate Change." *The New York Times*, 17 May 2007, [www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/1194817109438/clinton-on-climate-change.html](http://www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/1194817109438/clinton-on-climate-change.html). Accessed 29 July 2020.
- Copy and paste the sources' information that you plan to use onto your Works Cited page, which is the last page of your paper.

# How to Cite Your Information in Your Paper

- The parenthetical citation within the paper must be the first item from the WCP, and it must look **exactly** like the first item from the WCP.
  - Author's last name and page number (Jones 4). (Smith and Jones 5).
  - OR
  - "Article Title" and page number ("The Fall of Jericho" 12). You only use the article title if there is no author(s) given.
  
- The parenthetical citation is the method to link your "borrowed" information to the source from which you took it. Place the citation directly after the information from your source. It can even be in the middle of a sentence, which displays what part of the sentence is from a source and what part is your own writing.
  - Fear is defined as "concern or anxiety" ("Fear"); however, this type of emotion does not exist.

## STEP 4

### Revising a Research Paper Page 1

#### **Format:**

- Does the title page adhere to the proper MLA format?
- Do all pages have the proper header?
- Have you checked all of your margins?

#### **Introduction:**

- Did you begin with an interesting title and hook?
- Is your thesis statement making a solid claim?
- Is this statement able to stand alone, and is it located properly?

**Body:**

- Do you need to reorganize or reorder any sections of your paper?
- Does each paragraph begin with a topic sentence?
- Have you integrated details and examples smoothly into your paragraphs?
- Have you given interpretive commentary to analyze these examples?
- Have you avoided plagiarism by carefully documenting all borrowed ideas?
- Did you use transitional statements and paragraphs to make your paper flow?

**Conclusion:**

- Have you summarized your main arguments?
- Have you convinced the reader of your point?

**Criteria:**

- Have you followed all MLA standards including parenthetical citations?
- Is your Work(s) Cited page completed, alphabetized, and formatted properly?
- Have you followed the guidelines for the actual assignment such as: page length and all other requirements?
- Have you accurately fulfilled all criteria for the assignment?