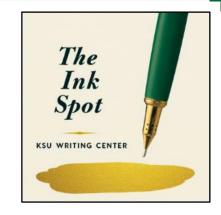


# Research Papers



Research papers are vital to your college success. Whether taking notes on creative fiction or scrubbing an intricate scientific study, researching a topic and then making an argument are essential to most college classes. Thus, it is smart to create a writing process that you can revisit over and over again, a process that helps you to endlessly succeed at writing.

# Why plan out my research paper?

Research papers require an organized, long-term writing process that can be overwhelming. Unpreparedness can leave you lost and encourage you to procrastinate. So, from brainstorming to revision, let us focus on a research paper one goal at a time. We have additional handouts for each of these steps.

- 1. Topic
- 2. Research Questions
- 3. Research Proposal
- 4. Research
- 5. Annotated Bibliography

- 6. Thesis Statement
- 7. Outline
- 8. Drafting and Revision
- 9. Works Cited/References

# Research Papers: Step by Step

# 0. Assignment Review

 What are the requirements? Were you provided a topic or can you choose one yourself?

## 1. Topics

What are you interested in? Make it your own!

#### 2. Research Questions

 Ask yourself if you want to find a problem, a solution, or synthesize existing research.

## 3. Research Proposal (if necessary)

 After developing your questions, find some specific research, decide what you will focus on, and write a proposal.

#### 4. Research

- Focus your research on your research questions. Make sure it is specific and from multiple types of sources.
- Continue to develop your opinions and argument.

## 5. Annotated Bibliography

 To keep track of your sources, you can create an annotated bibliography to organize citations and their content.

#### 6. Thesis Statement

 Create a statement that encapsulates the argument. Focus on clarity and confidence.

#### 7. Outline

 Start outlining your paper. What will the intro, body, and conclusion look like? What sources will you use and where?

# 8. Drafting and Revision

- Begin writing the paper using all of the previous steps to guide you.
- Receive feedback and revise the paper as much as you can.

# 9. Formatting and Works Cited/References Page

 Properly format the paper and include a proper Works Cited/References page.