

Tikrit University
Collage of Education for Humanities
English Department



Writing Research Paper

Third Year

Introduction to The Research Paper Process

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Writing Research Paper: A Practical Guide

Chapter One: Introduction to The Research Paper Process

A Research paper: is a piece of academic writing that provides analysis, interpretation, arguments and information that will investigate a research problem or question, or to help a researcher to obtain a complete understanding of a situation. It is the library and practical paper which is assigned in undergraduate courses.

Research papers are similar to academic essays, but they are usually longer and more detailed assignments, designed to assess not only your writing skills but also your skills in scholarly research. Writing a research paper requires you to demonstrate a strong knowledge of your topic, engage with a variety of sources, and make an original contribution to the debate.

Why Do We Write a Research Paper?

- 1- A research paper may be the most practical of all your college assignment. For one, you learn about the resources for research available in general and in your academic field. So, research papers will be library research papers because your college library contains the sources you'll need to investigate, but not all resources for research are in your library because some of your college courses may involve research with surveys, interviews, field studies, or laboratory work.
- 2- Learning what resources are available for research is only one of the benefits and also learn how to deal with those resources. Many research sources will provide you with bits of knowledge both factual evidence and the opinions of other people. Moreover, sources sometimes contain errors, which you will have to learn to recognize and will present conflicting evidence both facts that aren't the same and the opinions of authorities who don't agree.
- 3- Writing the research paper provides valuable experience. It forces you to develop an informed conclusion about your topic. Moreover, the writing itself provides experience in constructing and presenting an extended in depth argument based on a complex of information.

- 4- The research paper process is more than a challenging exercise in investigation and communication. Through the attention you focus on researching a topic and forming responsible conclusions about it.
- 5- The research paper process is not confined to college preparation. You will apply it in your future. The end product may not always be as formal as the academic research paper, but the skills you learn now as you study the research paper process will come into play.

Types of research paper

There are two common types the report and the persuasive (or thesis) paper.

1.A report: is an organized presentation of information about a subject, without an argumentative stance on the part of the writer. The writer collects, evaluates, organizes, and objectively restates the information found during research.

2.A persuasive paper: presents an idea (or thesis) that need support. The writer collects, evaluates, organizes, and restates information; however, the overall presentation is intended not just to report on that information but to persuade readers to see the information in a particular way.

The differences between the Report and Thesis

Report	Thesis
1- The presentation overall is intended to be objective.	1- The overall presentation to persuade readers to see the information in particular way.
2- It has few details.	2- It has many details.
3- It needs few papers.	3- It needs a lot of papers.
4- It has few sources.	4- It has many sources.
5- Presents accepted facts. 6- It requires short time to complete	5- Uses the facts as support for an argument. 6- It requires long time to complete

The steps of writing research paper

1- Choosing and narrowing a topic

Choose a topic that interests you and definitely one that is complex enough to have had various books and articles written about it but narrow enough to be dealt with within the length your instructor assigns.

2- Identifying sources

Using the card catalog, indexes, and other research tools, you compile a tentative bibliography a list of books and articles for potential research.

3- Gathering support

You evaluate the usefulness of the books and articles you locate, collect support material from them and develop a tentative outline of the paper.

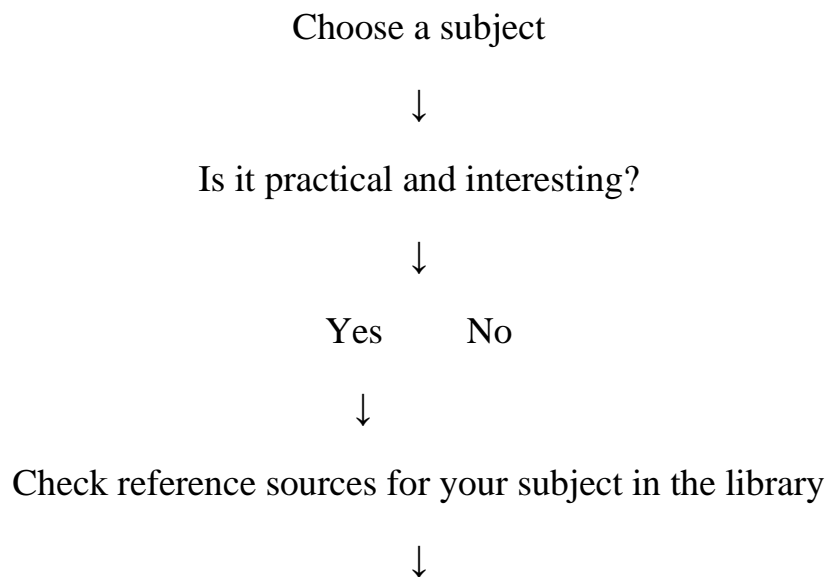
4- Writhing the paper

You write and revise your paper, integrating material from your research with your own ideas.

5- Preparing the paper in final form

You put the paper in final form, with attention to format conventions and a meticulous record acknowledging indebtedness for material from research sources, using notes and bibliography.

The following chart will give you more details about the steps of writing Research paper:



Narrow the subject



Is it narrow enough?

Yes No



Find out what sources the library has for this narrowed topic by beginning a preliminary bibliography



Are they useful and relevant enough?



Further develop a preliminary bibliography



Read and take notes to get familiar with the topic



Do you know enough to be able to focus on one, very limited aspect?

Yes no



Develop a preliminary thesis statement and preliminary outline



Continue reading and taking notes



Do you have enough notes, information, and ideas?

Yes no



Revise your preliminary thesis statement and preliminary outline



Draft the body of the paper



Draft the introduction and conclusion



Draft all or part of the paper



Are you satisfied? (remember that you have limited time)

Yes no



Add citations and bibliography



Are citations and bibliography complete?

Yes no



Edit for mechanical errors(such as spelling and punctuation)



Are you satisfied that there are no other errors?

Yes no



Add the cover page(with your name, the title, etc.)



Hand the paper in to your instructor



Relax!