

Writing the Academic Paper

Rules + Structures

Why the 20-page Paper

Academic Benefit	Professional Benefit
Formalizing arguments	Pop Culture Association
Understanding problems	New Media Consortium
Critical thinking	AEJMC + SPJ
	National Communication Association
<i>Academically Adrift</i>	BSU Student Symposium
<i>The Dumbest Generation</i>	SXSW Interactive
	The Futures of Entertainment

2 Components

- Initial Research:
 - Research Question that launches your investigation
 - Annotated bibliography is a summarization of the research you've done
- Paper:
 - Your argument or research that answers your Research Question

Research Question	Initial question that guides research, with 5-7 keywords
Annotated Bibliography	20 sources, summarized
Cover Page	Name, Title, Date
Thesis	1 sentence
Abstract	100-150 word summarization
Introduction	250-400 word frame
Literature Review	Operationalize terms, frame arguments, examine previous research
Argument	Bulk of work, augmented by original research, opinion, and cited work
Conclusion	Summarize argument with a nod towards unanswered question
Works Cited	

Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Topic	Link
Overview of Genres	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/3/
Genre + Research Paper	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/
Choosing a Topic	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/03/
Annotated Bibliographies	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/
What is Primary Research	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/559/1/
Evaluating Sources	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/01/
Literature Review	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01/
Intros, Body, Conclusions	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/1/

Your Invaluable Tool

- [Zotero](#) (Firefox Only)
 - [Screencast tutorials](#)
- Install Zotero in Firefox
- Use Google Scholar (for peer-reviewed) or Google search to find articles, websites, journals
 - You can also use the Library's online resource to find the journals as well
- Create basic "Works Cited" sections, then check with OWL
- Drag your Works Cited collection from Zotero to Word in order to create the section