

Research Paper Template

Title Page

- Paper title (centered, bold if using APA)
- Your name
- Course name and number
- Instructor's name
- Date

Abstract

A short summary (150–250 words) that briefly states:

- The research question or problem
- The methods used
- The main findings or arguments
- The conclusion or significance

Introduction

- Hook: an opening line that draws attention (could be a statistic, a question, or a striking fact).
- Background: a few sentences that explain the context of your topic.

- Research question: what your paper is trying to answer or explore.
- Thesis statement: a clear, concise claim that guides the entire paper.

Literature Review

- Summarize the key studies or sources related to your topic.
- Show where scholars agree, disagree, or leave gaps.
- Explain how your paper fits into that conversation.

Methodology

- Describe the methods you used to gather data or sources.
- Explain why those methods make sense for your topic.
- Clarify any limitations so the reader understands the scope.

Body Paragraphs

This is the core of your paper. Each paragraph should feel like one step in building your case.

Paragraph structure (repeat as needed):

1. **Topic sentence** – introduces the main idea of the paragraph.
2. **Evidence** – quotes, data, or examples from reliable sources.
3. **Analysis** – explain how the evidence supports your thesis.

4. **Transition** – connect the idea smoothly to the next section.

Tips for flow:

- Group similar points together.
- Keep paragraphs balanced; don't let one section overwhelm the rest.
- Always bring the focus back to the thesis.

Discussion

- Interpret your findings or arguments more deeply.
- Compare your results with existing research.
- Suggest what your analysis might mean for the bigger picture.

Conclusion

- Restate your thesis in fresh wording.
- Summarize your strongest points (without rehashing every detail).
- Offer a closing insight, implication, or question that leaves the reader thinking.

References / Works Cited

- List every source you cited in the text.
- Use the proper citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, or whatever your instructor requires).

- Make sure formatting is consistent

Appendices (*if needed*)

- Include charts, raw data, survey questions, or extra material that supports your paper but doesn't fit neatly in the main body.