#### Research Paper Template

#### While research papers can be set up in several different ways, we have provided a basic template for you to follow. You may need to add additional components or write about certain topics in a different order, but we hope this handout will help you develop and organize your ideas.

# Introduction Paragraph

## Introduce the general topic (you can start this paragraph with something that will gain your reader’s attention such as an interesting fact, statistic, anecdote, or quote.)

## Set the stage for your thesis (you want to transition from discussing the topic in a more general way to looking at the specific issue your thesis addresses)

## Thesis statement (this is the argument of your paper—the point you are trying to prove. The thesis should be written as a complete sentence.)

***Example of Constructing a Thesis Statement:***

**My topic is the prevalence of violence on college campuses.**

**I want to argue that this prevalence of violence can be reduced by increasing on-campus events and activities that will build a greater sense of community.**

**Thesis: The prevalence of violence on college campuses can be reduced by increasing on-campus events and activities that will build a greater sense of community.**

***Now it’s your turn…see the next page***

#### Steps to Forming a Strong Thesis:

### Decide on a general topic to research (this is the same general topic you mention at the beginning of the introduction)

* *Example*: *Immigration policy*
* **Your Research Topic**:

### Narrow the topic: After conducting some research on the general topic, choose a specific group or population as the focus of your paper

* *Example*: *Immigration policies for young adults in the United States*
* **Your Narrowed Topic**:

### Take a position on a topic: Decide what you want is the significant thing you want to say about the narrowed topic. What is your opinion on the issue?

* *Example: The United States government should create opportunities for undocumented young adults to obtain a college education.*
* **Your Position**:

1. Offer support for your position: Include a specfic reason(s) for why you are making this argument. These supporting point(s) will be explained more thoroughly in the body of your paper.

* *Example: The United States government should create opportunities for undocumented young adults to obtain a college education in order to encourage talented students to remain in the United States.*
* **Your Thesis Statement (remember, this should be a *complete* sentence)**

# Background Information / Views on the Issue

## Explain the context of the issue

### What is the history of the issue?

### What makes the issue so important?

## Other points of view (this could be placed towards the end of your paper instead)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Other Points of View | Research / Discussion |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## Reiterate your point-of-view to refute other views

# Supporting Point 1

## Topic Sentence (this should be like a mini-thesis statement for the paragraph. It should give your reader a good idea of what you’re going to address in the paragraph)

## Research, Examples, and Discussion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Research and Examples | Discussion or Explanation |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## Explain how the point helps to support your thesis

# Supporting Point 2

## Topic Sentence

## Research, Examples, and Discussion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Research and Examples | Discussion or Explanation |
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|  |  |
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|  |  |

## Explain how the point helps to support your Thesis

# Supporting Point 3

## Topic Sentence

## Research, Examples, and Discussion

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| --- | --- |
| Research and Examples | Discussion or Explanation |
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## Explain how the point helps to support your Thesis

# Supporting Point 4

## Topic Sentence

## Research, Examples, and Discussion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Research and Examples | Discussion or Explanation |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |

## Explain how the point relates to your Thesis

# Supporting Point 5

## Topic Sentence

## Research, Examples, and Discussion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Research and Examples | Discussion or Explanation |
|  |  |
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|  |  |

## Explain how the point relates to your Thesis

# Conclusion

## Revisit / summarize your thesis (don’t simply restate it).

## Ask yourself the “so what” question. Why does what you wrote about matter to your audience, to society, etc.?

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