

Fall 2018

Writing for the Sciences: Research Paper Assignment

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Research Paper (20%) Presentation (5%); totaling 25% of the final grade paper.

Now that you have created a research proposal, the next step is the actual research. Your research proposal acts as an outline and guide to your research paper. Please note that this assignment also includes a formal presentation on your research topic.

Essay Guide:

- 1) **Format:** 5-7 pages (not including the cover page or work-cited page); APA format with cover page. Visual image should be placed somewhere on the cover page, along with the article's title and your name/course name.
- 2) **Minimum of Four Sources:** Two of your sources must contain an experimental research component, and the other two sources can come from review papers.
- 3) Your paper must begin with an abstract, and followed in IMRAD format.
- 4) **IMRAD** format means that your paper must have an **introduction/background, Methods, and Results/Discussion** section.
- 5) **Introduction Section:** Your introduction must respond to all of the Moves, 1, 2, and 3, discussed in class:
 - Move 1: Establish topic and significance
 - Move 2: Establish need for present research
 - Move 3: Introduce the present research
- 6) **Methods Section:** Unless you are doing an actual experiment, your research will be based on a review of other research experiments or studies. Therefore you are tasked with analyzing the methods used in one or two of your primary research sources, that either supports or counter-argues your claim. In other words, you must evaluate their research methods by responding to the following questions:
 - Were the study's subjects screen and selected for the appropriate characteristics?
 - Were subjects assigned to groups and conditions without bias?
 - Did the study include a sufficient number of subjects?
 - How appropriate was the study design for resolving the research issue?
 - How valid and comprehensive were the study's independent variables?
 - How valid and reliable were the study's dependent variables?
 - During the course of the study, how effectively did the researchers control for extraneous variables?
 - How appropriate and accurate were the study's statistical analyses?
- 7) **Results Section/Discussion Sections:** The results and discussion sections can be combined or evaluated separately; it all depends on your research, argument, and rhetorical goals. This is the section(s) where you prove and legitimize your argument using scientific analysis and facts based on your research.
- 8) **Conclusion:** Your conclusion should describe how your research informs and benefits the science community, and the wider world. It should resonate with your readers in a way that will make them want to learn more about your topic.

Due Dates:**Wed 11/14** - First draft online peer-review**Wed 11/21** – Final draft

CCNY Writing Center: Schedule an appointment with a writing consultant and earn points on your paper.