How to Write the Research Paper

1. Every essay or paper is made up of three parts:

* Introduction
* Body
* Conclusion

1. Introduction: Begin with a broad statement relevant to your topic. With each sentence, get more and more specific **until the end of the paragraph where you state your thesis.**

The purpose of the introduction is to:

* Let the reader know what the topic is
* Inform the reader about your point of view
* Arouse the reader's curiosity so that he or she will want to read about your topic

1. Body paragraphs: most likely 3-5 body paragraphs

* Write a topic sentence (main idea) for each paragraph. Limit each paragraph to one main idea. (Don't try to talk about more than one idea per paragraph.)
* Then explain your main idea with details, facts, examples, and other supporting evidence; quote or paraphrase documents that will help to explain your point in better detail.
* Prove your points continually by using specific examples and quotations from your note cards.
* Use transition words to ensure a smooth flow of ideas from paragraph to paragraph.

1. Conclusion:

* 1 paragraph that gives some sort of closure (at least 3 sentences)

Reminders:

* 1 inch margins!
* Times New Roman 12 point font—ONLY!
* Number your pages! (of the actual essay, no numbers for the cover page—the 1st page of the essay should be 1)
* Add your own commentary between each fact you quote or paraphrase from a source
* If a body paragraph is too long, please find a place to divide it!
* Paste tense (there are very few reasons that you can write in present tense in this paper)
* NO contractions: ~~can’t don’t wouldn’t~~
* NO extra lines/spaces between paragraphs
* NEVER use the word = ~~a lot lots till tons~~
* NEVER start a sentence with a number! If you do, you MUST spell out the number.
* NEVER use the first name of your person when referring to them (unless they are a king/queen such as King Louis XIV or Queen Victoria). Always use last names or their full name.
* NO quotes over 4 lines!!! Period!
* NO more than 3 quotes in the entire paper!
* USE the TWO DBQ sources—must QUOTE these!
  + 2 DBQ sources MUST be on Works Cited Page