

APWH: How to Write a Research Paper

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

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

2. **Introduction:**

- Contextualization:
 - Just like you do for a normal LEQ or DBQ—3-4 sentences to set the stage for your topic with background
 - You can use quotes/paraphrases from your sources here
- Thesis statement:
 - MUST answer “to what extent” To what extent was _____ (your topic) a turning point in world history?
 - At least 3 main points (one of them MUST be supporting the opposite view: example 2 points supporting the fall of Rome as a turning point and one point explaining how it was NOT a turning point)

3. **Body paragraphs:** 3 paragraphs

- In order of points in thesis
- Write a topic sentence (main idea) for each paragraph
- Cite evidence from sources (correct MLA format) to support each of your thesis points
 - Quote or paraphrase documents that will help to explain your point in better detail
- Last point should be the opposing view
- Sourcing of at least 1 of your documents (SAPP)—should be when you use your PRIMARY SOURCE QUOTE!!!! (See my example)
- Use transition words to ensure a smooth flow of ideas from paragraph to paragraph

4. **Conclusion:**

- Brings some sort of closure—can be a restatement of thesis

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 4-5 quotes in the entire paper!