RESEARCH INFORMATION

RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS

Purpose: This is a paper for which you research a subject, small in scope, and then write a report, analyzing and evaluating the subject. Your style must be objective, not subjective; your sources must be balanced (not just one perspective); and your information must be professional in nature.

Length: 2200 words, approximately 9 pages, plus an illustration placed within the paper. (under 2000 is failing)

Topic: One which allows for analysis and evaluation of an area in which current issues which have significance for the conduct, thought, or actions of mankind. It must NOT be a summary of a topic.

Thesis: One in which you state the approach to and the area of study.

Subtopics: Use 3 of approximately equal length. Each one should examine the major areas of your paper.

Sources: Ten professional sources are required. They include at least one book, two database articles, and one internet source.

Documentation within paper:

- Information presented in your own words: citation of author’s last name or title, plus page number, at end of paragraph.
- Information presented as direct quotations: citation of author’s last name or title, plus page number, at end of quotation

Writing Style: Formal research style: 3rd person, no slang, no contractions.

Paragraph Length: one-third to one-half page

Illustration: Placement within body of paper, one-eighth to one-page, with a number (figure 1) and a title. Use copies of pictures, charts, graphs, or lists.

Examples’ Length: When using examples to illustrate a point, use no more than one paragraph for each.
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SAMPLES OF RESEARCH TOPICS AND OF THESIS STATEMENTS

SCIENCE
Stem cell research offers opportunities for cures but also ethical problems.

HISTORY
President Franklin Roosevelt's breaking of the Japanese code and subsequent knowledge of the impending Pearl Harbor attack offers a new perspective on his plans for World War II.

MEDICINE
Cancer “cures” through the use of food and supplements offer alternatives to traditional cancer “treatments.”

SOCIOLOGY
Black slave owners in the United States are a forgotten class.

ARCHITECTURE
Form as a reflection of philosophy and function is exemplified in the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright.

EDUCATION
Multiple language acquisition at an early age in some countries provides information on the thinking capabilities of young children.

LITERATURE
Shakespeare’s discussion of mental and physical disorders reveals an extraordinary knowledge of medicine.

RHETORICAL DEVICES

1. Use of authorities
2. Quotations
3. Questions
4. Use of famous people
5. Anecdote
6. Brief history
7. Comparisons
8. Analogies
9. Examples
10. Facts and Statistics