

Thesis-driven Research Paper

Definition: A thesis-driven research paper is similar to a long essay. The paper will have a strong arguable thesis statement in the introduction. (A thesis is a proposition maintained by argument - American Heritage College). The following paragraphs should support or prove your thesis and your paper should conclude with a statement of solution and/or suggestions for resolution. All language should be formal- NO "I", "you", "me", "our", etc.; in other words, do not use pronouns-name the person of whom you are speaking. Do not use contractions, slang or abbreviations.

Requirements:

1) *Formatting Guidelines:*

- A minimum of EIGHT(8) pages with a maximum of ELEVEN (11) pages, the title page, graphics, bibliography do not count toward the page requirements.
- Type written in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins, justified left. (To reset the margins, go to File/Page Setup and confirm or change Top, Bottom, Left and Right to 1")
- The entire paper is to be double-spaced - heading, title, quotes, works cited page, and justification pages.
- Do not double-double-space between paragraphs.
- Paragraphs are indented (Microsoft Word default-hit tab key once).
- Each page must be labeled with your last name. This is done by going to VIEW, Header/Footer, In the Header box, type your last name. Tab over to the right margin (or hit Control R) and type your last name.

MLA Title Page Step-by-Step

1. Press enter 20 times (You will be on line 21)
2. Click on center alignment
3. Enter the Title of the report in **all caps**.
4. Press enter 20 times (You will be on line 41)
5. Click on right alignment.
6. Type your name, press enter
7. Type your teacher's name, press enter
8. Type the name of the course, press enter
9. Type the date.

MLA Paper Format

Below are some basic guidelines for formatting a paper in MLA style. General Guidelines

2) *A minimum of five different sources must be cited in the paper.*

- Interview: One of your sources must be an interview with a person who is an expert on your topic. Be sure to list the interviewed person's qualifications in your works cited page.
- At least two sources must be from magazines, journals, or periodicals.
- At least one source must be a book.
- At least one, but no more than three of the five sources, should be from the Internet, authored websites with the following extensions: .org, .gov, .edu. or .net. Websites ending in .com are not acceptable. You may use more than three internet sources as long

as the requirements for the other sources are also met.

- General encyclopedias like World Book or Wikipedia may not be used as source within your paper. Such general encyclopedias are an excellent place to begin your research, especially the bibliographic source material, but should not be the basis for your information.

NOTE: Be sure that you have hard copies of **ALL** sources. In the event you, your teacher, your mentor, or the "Stretch" Senior Project Committee needs the material to verify or further your paper's argument, you may be required to turn these in, so **BE READY** with them.

3) *The style of parenthetical documentation we are using is from the Modern Language Association (MLA).*

- This style uses parentheses to enclose the first item from the bibliography which is usually the author's last name. The parenthesis must also have the page number the information came from or paragraph number from an Internet article.
- You must document and properly cite ALL information and graphics you obtain from books, magazines, interviews and the Internet.
- The only information that does not need to be documented is information that is common knowledge.
- As soon as you open the source, you are required to document the source from which you read or hear. This requirement applies to your interview as well. When in doubt, document.
- Personal Interview MLA format

EXAMPLES

Citation (in the body of writing) (King)

Works cited (in the bibliography) King, John. Personal interview. 12 February 1999.

4) *A list of works cited is required. It will appear at the end of your paper on a separate sheet. It is an alphabetical list of the sources that you have cited within your paper by using parentheses.*

- Use the hanging indent selection in the paragraphing tool in the format option in Word.
- Click on Format on the tool bar, then click on Paragraph, go to the box that says Special and click on Hanging. This function will use the hanging indent without you having to use the tab key.
- This Works Cited page does not count toward the required pages for the paper.

5) *A justification of the Internet sources that you have cited within your paper will be attached after the Works Cited page.*

- A guide for the process of this follows in this manual. It is a required component of the thesis-driven research paper.
- This justification will evaluate the internet sources that were cited within the paper and assures that the researched information is balanced, credible and unbiased.
- This analysis comes directly after the Works Cited page or after the Works Consulted page (if your teacher chooses to have you prepare a Works Consulted

6) *The content of the thesis research paper will be based on an essential question and is either a problem-based inquiry or a persuasive piece of writing. Biographical, career, informational or how to*

papers will not be accepted. The emphasis of the research paper is to demonstrate higher level critical thinking in a writing format.



The thesis research paper components:

1. Title Page
2. Research paper 8-11 pages that describes the essential question and proposes a project thesis, whose content is problem-based
3. Works Cited/Consulted Page (See #2 in requirements)
4. Justification of the Internet Sources (annotated bibliography)

What are essential questions?

Questions that probe for deeper meaning and set the stage for further questioning, ones that foster the development of critical thinking skills and higher order capabilities such as problem-solving and understanding complex systems. A good essential question is the principal component of designing inquiry-based learning.