

How to Prepare Your Research Paper

At this point, you are in the home stretch. Preparing your research paper will involve pulling together the information you have already collected into one large document. Your research should include the following and make a separate page for each section.

- **TITLE PAGE** - Includes your project title. This is the cover page for your research paper. You can put a graphic or picture, but DO NOT include your name or teacher's name. (Your name goes on the back)
- **INTRODUCTION/RESEARCH** - The introduction sets the scene for your report. The introduction includes stating the problem, your hypothesis, an explanation why you chose your project and what you hoped to achieve. Look at your research plan page. Your research plan will help you write your introduction.
- **MATERIALS/EXPERIMENT**- Describe in detail the methods used to collect your data or make your observations. It should be detailed enough so that someone could repeat the experiment from the information in your paper (like a recipe). Refer to your logbook for this information, because you wrote everything down in your logbook as you performed the experiment.
- **OBSERVATIONS/DATA/ANALYSIS** - This is the main part of your research paper. When you are composing your discussion, your results should flow smoothly and logically from your data. Look at your logbook for this information. Be thorough. Allow your reader to see your train of thought, letting them know exactly what you did. Compare your results with published data that you may have found in your literature review, commonly held beliefs and/or expected results (your hypothesis). Include a discussion of possible errors. Did the data change much when you repeated your experiment again? Were your results affected by uncontrolled events? What would you do differently if you repeated this project? What other experiments should be conducted if you were going to work on this project again next year?
- **CONCLUSION** - Briefly summarize your results. Be specific, tell if your results agreed or disagreed with your hypothesis. You will get this information from your logbook. Do not put anything in the conclusion that has not already been discussed somewhere else in your project.
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** - (Optional) you should always give credit and thank to those who helped you. Identify any materials you received or borrowed from someone, but do not mention any names. You do not need to put his on our display board.
- **REFERENCES** – You may call this page your list of Reference or Bibliography or Work Cited and it should include any information that is not your own. This includes books, journal articles, internet, magazines, interviews, etc. For your project, you should have a least five references that you actually used. Follow the proper bibliography format, found on the DMS Library website under "Citation," prepared by our librarian Mrs. Bisirri.
- **TABLES AND FIGURES** - Include tables, charts and photographs that further help explain your experiment.

These pages should be stapled together. You will display this research paper in front of your project board.

References, Bibliography or Works Cited

Don't Forget:

- Double space the page
- Use the title "References," "Bibliography," or "Works Cited" at the top of the page
- List your sources in alphabetical order by author (or title if there is not author)
- Use a hanging indent for each entry (the first line of every entry should be at the margin, the next line of it should be a indented ½ inch)
- Follow MLA punctuation carefully

Works Cited

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<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

This website provides step-by-step directions and examples for different types of sources.