

Putting together your research paper

Title Page

- List whatever heading your teacher requires.
- Make sure to include your name, the date, your class period, and the school

Table of Contents

- As you build your paper, add to this page
- List each major component of your paper and the page(s) where it can be found

Introduction

- This should include
 - The purpose or question
 - Hypothesis
 - An explanation of what made you decide to research what you chose
 - What you hoped to gain from the research.

Materials and Methods

- List all materials for project.
- IN DETAIL, describe the methods you used to collect data, make observations
 - what did you do?
 - How often?
 - What measurement tools did you use and why?
 - The paper should be in so much detail that ANYONE that picks up your paper and reads it could replicate your project
- This is a great location for photos of equipment, especially if you design any of it.

Results

- All data is here
- Any data tables, graphs created from data, raw data, and observations... all are included here!

Discussion

- Compare what happened in your experiment to what you expected
- Discuss possible errors
- How did the data vary between observations/trials?
- How were your results affected by uncontrolled events?
- What would you do differently if you repeated this project?
- What other experiments should be conducted?

Conclusion

- Provide a brief summary of your results.
- State the relationship (if any) that you found between your two variables (independent and dependent).
 - Support those statements with empirical data (meaning an average of your trials instead of data from a specific trial).
- BE SPECIFIC - not general.
- Don't mention anything new here that has not already been discussed in your paper.
- This is also the place to mention how your findings can be applied in the real world.

Credits

- Give credit where credit is due - here you may list individuals, businesses, or research institutions that have assisted you.
- Please note that credits may NOT be displayed on the project board

References

- Your list should include ANY documentation that is not your own
- Please cite your work using MLA format.
- Some great places for help on the MLA style:
 - <http://www.easybib.com>
 - the Perdue OWL MLA Style Guide