

How to Write a Good Paper

THE ROMANS

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How to Write a Good Paper

- Stick to the formal guidelines
- What does the task actually want from you?
- Find the sources on the topic: textbook, (Wikipedia,) online lexica,
- Read the sources, look up things you don't understand
- Source criticism: who, what, when, where, how, to whom, why, to what end?
- What potential biases might the sources have?
- Come up with an argument
- Show what supports your argument & why counterarguments haven't merit
- Don't just tell me what you think, try and make me agree with you
- Write. Rewrite. Rework. Revise. Reconsider. Other things starting with "Re-"
- Check for mistakes (spelling, grammar, ambiguous language & references).
- Finish it a day early, and read it again the next day
- Hand it in on time

WRITTEN PRESENTATION RUBRIC

Grade	Research Question	Content	Handling of Sources	Relation to Literature	Grammar & Spelling	Length
A+	Excellent analytical research question.	Very good argument, easy to understand, very precise, no factual errors.	Variety of sources, correct references, deep engagement.	Broad inclusion of literature, correct references, deep engagement with other research.	No spelling or grammar errors.	+/- 5% of the required length.
A	Great analytical research question.	Very good argument, easy to understand, precise, no factual errors.	Variety of sources, correct references, engagement.	Broad inclusion of literature, correct references, discusses other research.	Less than one spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 10% of the required length.
A-	Very good analytical research question.	Very good argument, understandable, precise, no factual errors.	Variety of sources, incorrect references, engagement.	Broad inclusion of literature, incorrect references, discusses other research.	One spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 20% of the required length.
B+	Good analytical research question.	Good argument, understandable, precise, some factual errors.	Multiple sources, correct references, deep engagement.	Includes other literature, correct references, discusses various points of view.	Two spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 30% of the required length.
B	OK analytical research question.	Good argument, understandable, somewhat precise, some factual errors.	Multiple sources, correct references, engagement.	Mentions other literature, correct references.	Three spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 40% of the required length.
B-	Poor analytical research question	Good argument, understandable, imprecise, some factual errors.	Multiple sources, incorrect references, engagement.	Mentions other literature, incorrect references.	Four spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 50% of the required length.
C+	Good factual research question.	Poor argument, understandable, imprecise, several factual errors.	Only uses assigned sources, correct references, engagement.	Only refers to textbook, correct references.	Five spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 62.5% of the required length.
C	OK factual research question	Poor argument, difficult to understand, imprecise, several factual errors.	Only uses assigned sources, correct references.	Only refers to textbook, incorrect references.	Ten spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 75% of the required length.
C-	Poor factual research question.	Poor argument, almost incomprehensible, imprecise, several factual errors.	Only uses assigned sources, incorrect explicit references.	Only refers to textbook, no explicit references.	Twenty spelling and / or grammar error per page.	+/- 87.5% of the required length.
F	No research question	No (correct) content.	No sources.	No literature / no correct references.	Incomprehensible.	+/- 100% of the required length or worse.

Your Questions and Issues

Think—Pair—Share

Open Discussion