

Creating A Paper

A paper is the traditional method of presenting historical research. Various types of writing may be employed (fictional diaries, poems) but all must conform to all general and category rules. The text of historical papers must be no less than **1,500** and no more than **2,500** words. If your paper gets beyond 10 pages it is probably too long. Each word or number in the text counts as one word. This word count does not include notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and appendix material.

The paper should consist of an **introduction** stating the **thesis** of the work, a **main section** addressing the theme, and a **conclusion** flowing logically from the thesis statement and body. **Citations**-footnotes, endnotes or internal documentation-are required. Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas as well as direct quotations.

Papers must be typed, computer printed or legibly handwritten on plain 8.5 x 11 inch paper with one-inch margins on all sides. Papers must be numbered consecutively and double-spaced with writing on only one-side; type must be between 10 and 12 point only. Staple papers in the upper left hand corner and **DO NOT** put in any cover or binder. Title page will have **NO** illustrations.

Title A _____ _____ _____ Background/Context Title B _____ _____ _____ Antecedents: Events immediately prior to event	Thesis Heart of the Story	Title C _____ _____ _____ Precedents created; immediate effects Title D _____ _____ _____ Conclusions: Significance in History
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Process:

1. Craft a clear thesis-what are you trying to prove-how does it tie to the theme.
2. List your 3-6 main reason/examples/ideas to support your thesis
3. Be sure to have sources/notes to authenticate your examples.
4. Organize your research-lay out your note cards in a logical fashion to prove your thesis-example by example-argument by argument.
5. Write the first draft of your paper-Have someone read the paper without reading the paragraph that contains your introduction and thesis-can they figure out what you are trying to prove?
6. Revise-is your paper logical and does it make sense?
7. Revise-is your paper spell-checked-by a human-who can check for context, readability and logic?
8. Revise-are all the notes and citations used properly?
9. Printout the final copy.