

The Building Blocks of a Research Paper

For this assignment, you are going to work on laying out the building blocks of your research paper (thesis, title, outline, and opening paragraph). If you do this properly, when the time comes to write your actual paper, you will find it a fairly easy process.

Please keep the following in mind as you work on each section of this assignment:

Thesis (20%):

The thesis for your paper should be short, clear, and decisive. Don't be afraid to be provocative and to take a stand on the issue that you will be addressing in your paper.

Title (20%):

Make sure that your title is catchy and interesting, and expresses the gist of your paper. Remember: a boring title is an omen of a boring paper, so don't be afraid to use your title to startle or amuse your reader.

Outline (30%):

Your outline should hit on all the major topics you plan to address in your paper. It can be as thorough as you would like. Just make sure that it demonstrates a logical progression of thought and argumentation.

Introduction (30%):

Your opening paragraph(s) should draw your reader into your paper. Make the introduction to your paper as interesting as possible and be sure that your thesis is expressed clearly within your introduction.

Your grade for this assignment will be based upon how well you adhere to the guidelines described in this book for each of the above components.