

STAGES OF A RESEARCH PAPER

PREWRITING

These are the steps you take before you begin writing the actual paper. To skip prewriting means you launch into the writing stage before you know what you're going to say or how you will say it!

CHOOSE A TOPIC

Make sure you are fully informed on your topic choices and pick one that genuinely interests you.

RESEARCH

You can't write about what you don't know, so research should be the next step. Keep track of where your info comes from and be specific, to make the writing process faster and more organized.

OUTLINE

Organize your thoughts into an outline, which is an overall skeleton of your paper. Outlines are written in bullet points, not full sentences.

DRAFTING

This is the actual writing process. It should not happen all at once, but should be a gradual growth process. Be constantly checking and proofing while you draft.

CREATE YOUR WORKS CITED

Before you begin writing the actual paper, write your works cited page. This will make citing your sources very easy, and you won't have to back and add or edit them later.

WRITE YOUR FIRST DRAFT

Write directly into your outline so you can expand on your main points, see where you are going, and transition from point to point.

PROOFING

Your teacher wants your best effort, so never submit a first draft. Make sure you check both your writing and your research for accuracy.

READ THE RUBRIC, THEN READ YOUR PAPER

Review the expectations of your research paper and then read through the whole thing at once. Check for mechanical errors, but also organization, content, and research accuracy.

PEER REVIEW

Ask a classmate or teacher to read through your second draft.

PROOFREAD AGAIN

Give the whole paper, including the works cited, one final read through.



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Other helpful resources:

[LIT & MORE WEBSITE](#)

My blog houses free lesson plans, strategies, and ongoing discussions on engagement and inclusion in AP® Lit and ELA classrooms.

[ELA GRADES 9-10 BUNDLE](#)

This MEGA bundle contains everything you need to teach 9th or 10th grades, including Honors and Pre-AP students. It's constantly growing too!

[ELA BELLRINGERS](#)

These daily lessons cover grammar, vocabulary, nonfiction rhetorical analysis, and literary terms in less than five minutes. The resource includes a full year of materials and weekly quizzes!

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