![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FKWMQHM0\MC900123919[1].wmf]()Your Purpose in Writing a Research Paper:

Analyze Primary and Secondary Sources to answer a research question.

The Answer should be expressed

as an ***argumentative thesis statement***.

Your Paper Should:

Be thesis-driven

Seeks to prove a point

![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EJ2Q0EKJ\MC900434411[1].wmf]()Show *why* the topic matters

THESIS:

A ***Brief Statement*** that ***explains why*** you believe ***your argument to be true***.

This Statement should answer your research Question

1. [Something] [Does something] because/in order to [reasons]

Example: “Prior to the 1950s, Scholars like W.W. Tarn blindly regarded figures like King Alexander of Macedon as the ‘Great,’ because of the tendency to see history as driven by powerful personalities.”

1. Because [Reason(s)], [Something] [does something]

Example: “Because of the terrible cost of ‘cult personality’ in totalitarian states, by the 1950s scholars began to question ideas popularized by scholars like W.W. Tarn that King Alexander of Macedon should be regarded as ‘Great.’”

1. Although [opposing evidence], [reasons] show [something] [does something]

Examples: “Although W.W. Tarn’s conception of King Alexander of Macedon as the ‘Great’ remains popular, since the 1950s a growing number of scholars have shown that his reign had disastrous consequences for the lives of millions of people throughout Eurasia.”

Outline

Consists of the following:

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraphs (at least 3)
3. Conclusions

Introduction

Describe ***the research question*** the ***historical context*** of your topic and ***include your thesis.***

Where is the topic in space and time?

Who are the main players?

Body Paragraphs

The meat of your paper. Strive to ***prove your argument*** by ***describing***, ***analyzing***, and ***integrating evidence*** provided by sources.

Conclusion

***Summarize*** what was proven

***Show connections*** made across research

***Explain*** “why does it matter?” “What did people learn from this?”

***Satisfy*** the Introduction: Do my intro and conclusion tie together?

***A Conclusion SHOULD NOT:***

Simply summarize the paper

Ask further questions

Make vague connections to how the issues apply to today’s world

Tips for Writing

in the Style of a Historian

**![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()Be Clear about Chronology**

* Make sure that A leads to B leads to C
* Provide dates to clarify when events occurred
* ![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()Shifts in time should be very clear by explicit presentation of dates.

**![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()Address Insights Not Feelings**

* Show intuitive thoughts/critical thinking insights
* The papers purpose is to prove an argument
* ![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()This is achieved through evidence and analysis not emotional writing.

**![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()Voice and Tone**

* Avoid Using Passive voice
* Ex. “It was done” does not explain who did what, and why
* Use “I” Sparingly, and only when referencing your own Ideas
* ![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()Avoid “you.”

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**Use Quotations Properly**

**Give Context when incorporating Research**

* + Where is the info coming from?
	+ Who is speaking/writing?
	+ Is there a bias? Is it credible?
	+ ![C:\Users\pimesama\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DTYR3TYK\MC900018738[1].wmf]()How is the quote related to your paragraph?



**Research Paper Check list**

Wikipedia is **not** good evidence!

 It can be used to get ideas flowing, but should not be used as a supportive source.