

**Tips for Writing a Research Paper:**

- 1. Start Right Away!**
- 2. Start Right Away!**
- 3. Start Right Away!**

The most important thing you want to do is give yourself enough time to work. You will receive each research paper assignment 6-8 weeks before each is due. Your three research papers will become progressively greater in length:

1. 1st. Quarter Research Paper 750 words (approximately 2-3 pages with normal 1/2 margins and a Times New Roman 12 font.)
2. 2nd. Quarter Research Paper 1250 words (approximately 4-5 pages with normal 1/2 margins and a Times New Roman 12 font.)
3. 3rd. Quarter Research Paper 1500 words (approximately 5-6 pages with normal 1/2 margins and a Times New Roman 12 font.)

- You should give yourself a month to adequately collect the library research information and supporting materials. At a bare minimum you should give yourself a week.
- Organization will help you make the most of whatever time you have.
- Write a quick schedule to help you keep track of time: list the days you have left and the time during the day you will be able to work.
- You will need to allot yourself time to go to the library, take notes, write an outline, write a first draft, and revise the paper for the final draft.
- It is very important to start out your research with a **solid thesis statement**. This is the question you propose to answer in the paper.
  - o Keep it simple. You do not need an enormous subject to work with.
  - o Make it specific. It's much easier to do research on a narrowly selected subject than a massive idea. Help yourself by narrowing it down.

1. **Introduction:** Your research papers must contain an introduction that follows the format of our DBQ essays. Your introduction should contain three parts which make up the one introductory paragraph:

- A. A grabber** to get the readers attention. It should be an interesting fact, quote or information that creates interest for the reader based on the historical context that you are writing about. Example: If you were writing a research paper on the accomplishments of President Theodore Roosevelt you could start with a quote by Teddy Roosevelt. *“Speak softly and carry a big stick.” This quote by President Teddy Roosevelt describes the central idea of his foreign policy toward Latin America”*
- B. The Historical Context** follows the grabber. It tells the reader who or what you are writing about and when and where it took place. In the example of the Teddy Roosevelt essay your historical context must include the fact that the essay is about Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (the who or what you are writing about). You must include the historical time period you are talking about (the late 1800s early 1900s) and where in the world you are writing about (in this case the United States.)
- C. The Thesis Statement** which makes up the last sentence or two of your introduction. To create a thesis statement you should use the task to help develop the question you will answer as your thesis. Often turning the task into a question will create a perfect thesis.

2. **Body Paragraphs:** Your research paper must contain body paragraphs which contain clear topic sentences for each body paragraph. Include lots of facts details and examples to build a body paragraph that clearly explains the topic covered. The body paragraph should end with a transition sentence that helps to introduce the topic of the next body paragraph.

- A.** Make sure your body paragraphs are organized by topics. Your essay needs a clear plan of organization and should not jump from topic to topic within the same paragraph unless the topics are related or build upon each other.

3. **Conclusion:** Your conclusion needs to start with a statement such as: In conclusion, or To recapitulate, or To summarize.... This will make sure the reader knows this is your conclusion. You then must restate your thesis: Example: *In conclusion, the Presidency of Teddy Roosevelt is considered by many to be the first modern Presidency in the history of the United States.* The restatement is then followed by a summarization of the essay into the key points which you used to prove your thesis.