

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

Research papers can follow two different structures: *inductive* and *deductive*. Each structure acknowledges opposing perspectives and supports a thesis with evidence.

These principles come from Regent University's ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 courses.

Thesis statements both determine and reflect a paper's structure. See our thesis handouts for more information on different types of thesis statements.

INDUCTIVE RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

The Inductive Paper – Proves one thesis through supporting evidence. It moves from one specific point to a more general application.

Introduction – Explains key terms, introduces concepts behind the organizing principle, and addresses any relevant background information.

Thesis – States one perspective that you intend to prove.

Body Paragraphs – Each paragraph supports a specific part of your organizing principle. Present evidence and note the opposing perspectives that confront your evidence. Demonstrate how your perspective overcomes the opposition.

Conclusion – Reframes your thesis, reiterates your main points, and contextualizes your argument.

DEDUCTIVE RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

The Deductive Paper – Describes different perspectives before establishing one thesis. It moves from multiple perspectives to one specific point.

Introduction – Explains key terms, summarizes perspectives, and addresses any relevant background information. Use an analytical thesis to present the issue and different perspectives.

Different Perspectives – Thoroughly describe each perspective, assessing its positive and negative attributes.

Thesis – Select one of the perspectives or propose a new perspective.

Conclusion – Explain how this perspective rises above the other perspectives.

PRACTICE NOW