

How to Write a Term Paper

Writing term paper is not easy. It requires a lot of hard work, extensive reading and thinking. Below are some guidelines to help you to write a term paper.

1) Identify an interesting topic: Select a topic that you are interested so that you will enjoy the process of term paper writing.

2) Gather information: Take support of available sources of information such as internet, libraries, abstracts from PubMed and review articles. Read papers that are already written on a similar topic of your term paper so that you can formulate a direction.

3) Recognize the problem(s): Identify the problem(s) that are still unsolved and unanswered. In your term paper, you should identify and list out the problem(s), give a literature review and an updated summary, give conclusion and recommendations by which the problem(s) can be solved. You should provide a comprehensive essay that demonstrates your understanding of the topic.

4) Provide quotations: Provide references to support your ideas. Giving proper reference is important for term paper writing because without it readers will cast doubt on the accuracy of the information you provide and you will be blamed of plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

5) General organization: The following sections should be included in your term paper.

(a) Title: Give an informative and concise title.

(b) Abstract: Give the objectives, your findings and the significance of your paper.

(c) Introduction: Give background information and relate the problem(s) you found with the current information. Emphasize your contribution.

(d) Main body: Present your ideas in a systematic and concise manner. When necessary, supply figures, diagrams and tables with legends.

(e) Discussion and conclusion: Give a summary of your ideas, compare and contrast yours with that of other studies. Suggest future directions and provide thoughtful discussion about the implications of your suggestions.

(f) References: Make sure you provide accurate citations with the following format. List references alphabetically.

Journal: Yoshida H, Kawane K, Koike M, Mori Y, Uchiyama Y, Nagata S. Phosphatidylserine-dependent engulfment by macrophages of nuclei from erythroid precursor cells. *Nature*, 2005, 437:754-8.

Book: Strunk W Jr, White EB. *The Elements of Style*, third ed. MacMillan, New York (Chapter 2), 2008.

Text citations:

- Single author (Smithson, 2008)
- Two authors (Smithson and Thompson, 2008)
- Three or more authors (Smithson et al., 2008)
- Multiple references (Smithson et al., 2008a; Smithson et al., 2008b; Jones et al., 2003)

(g) Abbreviations, units and symbols: Abbreviations must be given the first time they are used, both in the abstract and again in the main text. SI units should be used except where non-SI units are more common [e.g. milli-liter (ml) for volume]. Symbols should be consistent throughout the text and figures.