

## Writing the Paper

Writing a paper is much easier with an outline. In fact, writing a paper without an outline can cause overwhelming stress. If you did not plan your paper, you should take the time to **establish the thesis**, **do research**, and **make an outline** before you start writing your paper. Following these steps will not only facilitate writing for you, but it will also facilitate reading for the professor.

The various steps of the writing process are also designed to prevent writing a paper whose topic is too broad to be fully explored, whose content is not entirely related to the thesis or whose ideas cannot be backed up by the literature.

### Introduction

**Formulate a thesis statement or question that is clear and easy to find.**



The introduction represents approximately 10% of the paper.

The introduction has three sections: the context, the thesis, and the outline.

The opening lines of the paper provide interesting and relevant background information.

The objective of the paper is clearly stated.

The main ideas are presented in the order in which they will appear in the body.

### Body

**Follow the instructions and follow an outline. If it helps, try writing the body before the introduction.**



The main ideas directly support the thesis.

The main ideas cover all the major issues that are raised by the thesis.

The supporting ideas bolster the main ideas and are backed-up by evidence or examples.

Transition words and signal phrases establish the right connections between ideas.

Each quotation, paraphrase, and summary is followed by a reference.

### Conclusion

**Prove the validity of the thesis statement or answer the thesis question.**



The conclusion represents approximately 10% of the paper.

The conclusion has two sections: the summary and the final thought.

The outcome of the paper is clearly stated.

The closing lines of the paper support the thesis in a memorable way.

No new arguments are introduced.

To know more, see the *Purdue OWL*, *SPARK*, *Infosphère*, or similar writing centre websites.