

Steps to research:

1. Select topic and write a working thesis sentence.
2. Conduct research [See “Notes” document]
 - Find resources that provide facts, examples, statistics, quotes, stories, etc. that support your working thesis.
 - Find arguments that are counterpoints that your opposition will argue against your thesis.
 - Take notes on research
 - Keep copies of all source documents you will use in your research paper
3. Analyze research for KEY arguments and counterpoints. [See “Pro/con chart” PDF]. Identify your opposition’s #1 argument. This will become the basis of your antithesis paragraph. See # 5 below.
4. Organize your other arguments according to “order of importance” to determine which order the paragraphs should come in. [See “Thesis + Topic Sentences.”]

[Note: These will become the II, III, and IV of your outline.] Use these to form your topic sentences.

Write out your thesis and topic sentences. Read them together. Do they form a cohesive paragraph? If yes, you have a good organizational plan. If no, your essay will have problems.
5. Write the antithesis paragraph, placing it after the thesis. [See “Thesis-antithesis”] [Note: This will become the I of your outline.]
6. Using your notes, begin to fill in your body paragraphs. [See “Thesis + body”]
7. Add the conclusion. Do NOT merely restate your thesis. Use handout on conclusions.
8. If you haven’t already done so, add in your introduction. See Introduction + thesis + body. Use handout on introductions to write a WOW intro that lures your reader into your paper.
9. Format your essay according to the MLA format.
10. Prepare your Works Cited according to the MLA format.
12. Add a properly formatted outline after your Works Cited.

