

TIMELINE FOR WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

One month before due date:

- Identify topic
- Get familiar with researching techniques—don't know where to start? See librarian!
- Spend some time in the library searching for sources
- Know the documentation style you need to use, and find out how to use it. Need help? See librarian or Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning!

Three weeks before due date:

- Narrow topic while researching. Is there enough research on topic? If not, make necessary changes
- Write thesis statement and supporting points. Don't know how to write a thesis statement? Go to the Writing Lab at the CSL!
- Continue researching. Create a notecard system to keep track of sources and important points/ideas. Match the supporting points of your thesis statement with the research that ties to it.
- Create a working outline that shows main ideas and major and minor details. The Writing Lab can help! This will help you organize your paper when you are writing it later!

Two weeks before due date:

- Finish research by filling in gaps
- Does your thesis need to be revised or refined? Do it!
- Write rough draft, using outline. Need help getting from the outline to the rough draft? See the Writing Lab!
- Develop a Works Cited sheet. Need help? See your professor, your handbook, or the Writing Lab!
- Take a rough draft to Writing Lab!

One week before the due date:

- Re-write paper, based on comments from Writing Lab consultants
- If needed, take another draft to the Writing Lab
- Write final draft and proofread

Paper due date:

- Turn paper in on time!

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