



Research and Writing



Types of Papers you may be assigned

1. Argumentative research paper
2. Historical research paper
3. Exegesis paper
4. Book Review
5. Critical Reflection Paper
6. Journaling
7. Qualitative Research Paper
8. Quantitative Research Paper



1. Argumentative research paper

What is an Argumentative Research Paper?

- ◆ It has a thesis – a point – that you want to assert in your paper
- ◆ It describes and assesses variant positions in the light of your thesis.
- ◆ It effectively demonstrates your ability to think critically and independently
 - Opening: outline the issue, your thesis statement and your understanding of the best solution
 - Body of the paper: demonstrate the validity of your thesis through a logical progression of argument
 - Closing: synthesize or summarize your argument



An Argumentative Research Paper is not

- ◆ A summary discussion of a particular topic
- ◆ Repeating traditional arguments of an established view



What is the professor looking for?

- ◆ How well your thesis is defended
- ◆ Have you included opposing views and defended your thesis against these opposing views
- ◆ Have the relevant social, historical, cultural, and literary aspects of your thesis and those of other theses been addressed.
- ◆ While you do not have to be original, you do have to engage “the literature”. You will be evaluated on the breadth of variant positions discussed in the light of your thesis statement.



2. Historical Research Paper

- ◆ Discusses the origins and development of a topic (development of Liberation Theology, doctrine of the church, origins of the church in Nepal etc.).
- ◆ May want to take a controversial point and argue it like an argumentative research paper (a postmillennial approach to eschatology has generally been the predominant viewpoint throughout church history)



3. Exegesis Paper

Intensive and direct study of a Biblical text. You will be expected to:

- ◆ use commentaries, Bible dictionaries and journal articles -- these are expected to be in evidence as one reads the paper
- ◆ identify lexical, syntactical, grammatical, semantic, genre and the historical context of the passage and relate these to the most reasonable interpretation of the passage in the light of the entire book.
- ◆ identify other passages in the Bible that are perceived to be related to the passage under study and explain how these other passages may influence the interpretation of the passage under discussion.
- ◆ optional: determine the relevancy of the passage for today or how this could be preached for a particular audience.



4-8. For book reviews, critical reflection papers, journaling, as well as qualitative and quantitative research papers follow the instructions as presented in the class syllabus or by the instructor



What Do I Talk About? (Defining the Topic)

- ◆ Defining the Thesis:
 - a succinct statement of the topical range and discursive intent of a paper (i.e. I will argue *that* ...).
- ◆ Priority of the Thesis
 - Begin with a Topic.
 - Identify the thesis as soon as possible since it is the *raison d' être* of the paper.
 - The thesis will emerge gradually out of one's research and will likely be revised.
 - *You have a right to define your topic (though you should justify the definition).*



Where Do I Begin? (Getting Started)

- ◆ Dictionaries
 - Basic terms; very basic summaries
- ◆ Encyclopedias
 - General summaries of the topic
- ◆ Introductions, Handbooks, Surveys
 - More in-depth discussions of the topic, introduction to classic and current topics/debates
- ◆ Books, Essays, Journal Articles
 - Cutting Edge Research on the Topic



Primary and Secondary Sources

What's the Difference?

◆ Primary Source

- What it Is: a source that has a unique historical and authoritative value (e.g. Bible).
- Why it is important

◆ Secondary Source

- What it is: commentary on primary sources (e.g. biblical commentaries).
- Why it is important



Academic Journals...

The Forgotten Resource

- ◆ What Academic Journals are NOT
- ◆ What Academic Journals ARE
- ◆ The Challenge of Academic Journals
 - Too Complex
 - Too Specific
- ◆ The Value of Academic Journals
 - Relevant Research
 - Current Research



Library Resources

Reference desk availability

Mon-Fri: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Reference Resources

Schalm Memorial Library belongs to the NEOS library consortium, which consists of academic, government and hospital libraries within central Alberta. NEOS libraries share an on-line integrated catalogue that exceeds five million records. Taylor students have borrowing privileges at all NEOS libraries.

Search NEOS



Click this link to search the over 5 million books and journals within the NEOS Library Consortium

[What is NEOS?*](#)
[Which Libraries are part of NEOS?*](#)

*These links will direct you away from the Taylor Website

Search Databases

Click the box above to search over 70 Online databases. Several of these databases have been made available through the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library.



[What is the Loise Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library?](#)

[Database Research Guides](#)
[Database Listing by Subject \(.pdf\)](#)

Search Tips

[Guide to Searching NEOS \(salmon\) \(.pdf\)](#)
[How to Find Articles in the Database \(Blue\) \(.pdf\)](#)
[How to place a Hold on a book \(yellow\) \(.pdf\)](#)
[Search Tips \(.pdf\)](#)
[Research Guide](#)

Helpful Links

Click above to see a list of helpful web resources, listed by Subject.

Have any questions? [Contact the Reference Desk](#)



NEOS

- 📖 **The library is a member of NEOS which is a consortium of Academic, Government and Hospital libraries that shares an integrated online catalogue and resources.**
- 📖 **Access to over 5 million books and journals within the NEOS Library Consortium.**
- 📖 **Books from other NEOS libraries can be requested using the online catalogue, or in person from the owning library.**
- 📖 **Articles can be requested using the green NEOS request form available at the Circulation or Reference desks, or obtained in person at the owning library.**
- 📖 **Materials requested from NEOS libraries normally arrive within 2-3 business days and are held for 7 days for pick up.**
- 📖 **An e-mail notification will be sent when the book arrives.**
- 📖 **You may borrow from and return books to any library within NEOS without charge.**



Electronic Databases

- 📖 **The library subscribes to a variety of electronic databases. These databases contain citations, abstracts and/or full-text articles.**
- 📖 **You can access the databases from any computer with an internet connection. Logon to www.taylorseminary.ca/library and click on the “Reference Resources” link. Then click on “Search Databases”**



Accessing Databases

◆ On Campus

- ◆ While using a computer in the Library or Computer Lab, you should have immediate access to the list of databases

◆ Off Campus






- You will need your library card barcode number and PIN. The PIN is normally the last 4 digits of your library card barcode.

Electronic Databases Religion & Theology

-  **ATLA Religion Database**
-  **ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials**
-  **ProQuest Religion**
-  **Logos Scholar's Library**




Interlibrary Loans (ILL)

-  **If our library or any other NEOS libraries do not have an item you need, it can be requested from a library outside of NEOS.**
-  **Use the blue ILL request form, complete with faculty signature, for borrowing items outside of NEOS.**
-  **Request forms are available at the Circulation or Reference desks.**
-  **There is no charge to students for this service.**
-  **Please note that obtaining items from outside of NEOS is not guaranteed, and can take a longer period of time to obtain. So, please plan ahead.**



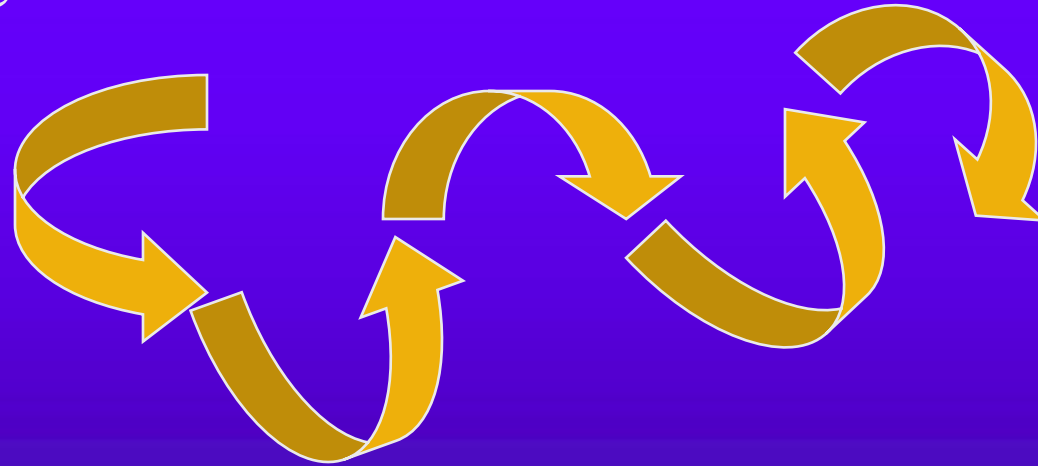
Searching Tips

 Use the subject headings of your search results as keywords.

 Use the bibliography in the articles or books that you have found to find more articles and books.

Writing the Paper

Writing is not Conversational



Writing is Sequential





In the Beginning...

Start with a Question → Answer the Question

Thesis → Support

Theory → Proof

Follow the instructions in the syllabus or given by
the Instructor



Some Important Questions

- ◆ Does the Introduction indicate clearly where the paper is going?
- ◆ Do the sections of the paper speak to the topic/question?
- ◆ Does the ordering of the material make sense?
- ◆ Are the sections of the paper clearly connected?
- ◆ Does the Conclusion summarize the results of the research effectively?



Documenting Your Resources

- ◆ Present your conclusions but acknowledge your indebtedness to others
- ◆ Problems:
 - No quotes
 - Too many quotes



When to Quote

- To avoid misrepresenting an author
- To make an impact
- To borrow a well-worded statement

Quoting should not...

...merely fill space

...replace opinion or assessment



Quotations and Alternatives

➤ Direct quotations

- Reproduce what is in the original exactly
- Punctuation
 - ✓ Commas and periods – inside
 - ✓ Colons and semicolons – outside

➤ Summarizing and paraphrasing

- Use your own words but acknowledge the source



Plagiarism

Plagiarism – To take words, ideas, thinking, organization, and outlines and present them as your own without giving credit to the source.



Consequences of Plagiarism

- ◆ Grade reduction and resubmission
- ◆ Failure on assignment
- ◆ Failure of course
- ◆ Academic probation
- ◆ Transcript notation
- ◆ Expulsion



Avoiding Plagiarism

1. Identify the source of all borrowed material
2. Enclose all exact wording within quotation marks
3. Use your own words and style when summarizing material
4. Footnote all borrowed material
5. Harmonize footnotes and bibliography
6. Be honest



Syd's Top Ten

Writing Errors to Avoid



1. Sentence Fragment

- ◆ Quite an area of debate in NT study, with scholars taking all sorts of positions.
- ◆ This is quite an area of debate in NT study, with scholars taking all sorts of positions.



2. Comma Splice/Fused Sentence

◆ Final eschatology is stronger in First John than in the Gospel of John, there is more emphasis on the parousia as the moment of accountability for Christian life in the epistle.

◆ Final eschatology is stronger in First John than in the Gospel of John. There is more emphasis on the parousia as the moment of accountability for Christian life in the epistle.



3. Missing Comma

- ◆ They went into the pigs and the herd rushed down the steep bank and was drowned.
- ◆ They went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank and was drowned.



4. Lack of Subject-Verb Agreement

◆ The community of believers in Rome include Priscilla and Aquila.

◆ The community of believers in Rome includesg Priscilla and Aquila.



5. Ambiguous Antecedent

- ◆ The community John addressed included both those who shared his views and those who opposed them.
- ◆ The community John addressed included both those who shared his views and those who opposed his teaching.



6. Wrong Word

- ◆ Infer or imply?
- ◆ That or which?
- ◆ Who or whom?



7. Apostrophe Errors

- ◆ Your or you're?
- ◆ Its or it's?
- ◆ Jesus' or Jesus's



8. Misspellings

- ◆ Prophecy/prophecy?
- ◆ Altar/alter?
- ◆ Site/cite?
- ◆ Their/there?



9. Adjectives Used as Adverbs

◆ You did good on your examination.

◆ You did well on your examination.



10. Article Errors

- ◆ Those whose first language is not English often have difficulty knowing when to use the definite article (“the”).

For matters of style, see
The Elements of Style
by William Strunk and E. B. White



Presenting your Paper: *Research English*

- ◆ A research paper is *not*
 - a sermon
 - a casual “talk” on a particular subject
 - a personal letter
- ◆ A research paper uses a more formal style of English suitable for publication, but still reflects your personality.



Research English

- ◆ How do you refer to yourself in the paper?
 - avoid expressions like, “This author is of the opinion that” Also, avoid the royal we: “We are of the opinion that...”
 - It is quite acceptable to use “I” in scholarly writing (but use it sparingly)



Research English

- ◆ Use gender-neutral language! Train yourself to talk that way... you will be a more effective communicator.
 - mankind → humankind/people
 - men → humanity
- ◆ You may use masculine pronouns to refer to God, though terms like “Godself” are found increasingly in today’s literature.
- ◆ Do not capitalize pronouns that refer to God.



Editorial Style

- ◆ Learn how to use your footnote feature for citations of sources

(Insert → Reference → Footnote)

- ◆ The four-and-under rule
- ◆ Don't footnote Bible references – just put their addresses in parentheses, using the standard abbreviations without periods, eg., Matt, Rom, 1 Cor)



Editorial Style

- ◆ If you are quoting from the same translation throughout the paper, indicate which translation you are using in a footnote the first time it occurs.
- ◆ If you use a quote from a different translation for the sake of emphasis, indicate it along with the reference (eg., Prov 3:6 NLTB).




Editorial Style

- ◆ Charts, tables and graphics add a valuable visual dimension to your paper.
- ◆ Be sure to acknowledge your source (footnote beside the title of your illustration).
- ◆ Number your illustrations in order (Figure 1, Figure 2) and create a special **List of Figures** after the Table of Contents if you have three or more in your paper.



Editorial Style

- ◆ Place any tools you developed for the research of your paper or materials that are supplementary to your paper in the Appendix.
- ◆ Appendix 1
- ◆ Appendix 2
- ◆ Appendix 3



Formatting of Footnotes and Bibliography

- ◆ Footnotes provide information at the bottom of each page as to the source of information given on that page.
- ◆ A bibliography at the end of the paper provides an alphabetical listing of all sources used in the paper.



Differences Between Footnotes and Bibliographical Entries (cont.)

- ◆ In footnotes there is no reason to give the author's last name first; in the bibliography, however, the last name should come first since the bibliography is organized alphabetically.
- ◆ In footnotes the most used marks of punctuation are the comma and semicolon; in the bibliography the period is the major punctuation mark.



Differences Between Footnotes and Bibliographical Entries (cont.)

- ◆ In footnotes all information other than author, title, and page number is put in a parenthesis; in the bibliography parentheses are used only for a journal's year of publication.
- ◆ In footnotes abbreviations should be used for journal titles and names of series; in the bibliography these are usually written out fully.



Differences Between Footnotes and Bibliographical Entries (cont.)

- ◆ In a footnote the first line is indented; in the bibliography the first line of each entry is flush to the left margin and the rest of the entry is given a hanging indentation.
- ◆ In footnotes only the actual pages containing the material you are citing should be indicated; in the bibliography all page numbers for articles should be given (but not for books).



Some Important Footnoting Tips

- ◆ Don't put the author's last name first.
- ◆ Author's name is separated from the title of article or book by a comma.
- ◆ After the book title all other information other than the page number is put in a parenthesis.
- ◆ Do not use any punctuation immediately before a parenthesis – commas should come after the parenthesis.



Some Important Footnoting Tips (cont.)

- ◆ Only book titles or journal names should be italicized. Do not italicize the title of an article or the series in which a book is located.
- ◆ Subsequent references to an already cited source should be given a shortened title; but do not refer to a source by only the author's name.

Some Important Footnoting Tips (cont.)

- ◆ No abbreviation is necessary to indicate page numbers.
- ◆ If a footnote refers to the same source and the same page number as cited in the immediately preceding footnote, “Ibid.” should be used. If it is the same source but a different page number, then “Ibid.” may still be used; e.g.: Ibid., 237.





Giving Inclusive Page Numbers

- ◆ Two digits – give all: 81-89
- ◆ Three digits and first number ends in two zeroes – give all: 100-104
- ◆ Three digits and first number ends in 01 thru 09 – give only what changes: 104-5, 109-37
- ◆ Three digits or more and first number ends in 10-99 – give two digits or more as needed: 134-39, 131-47, 1031-89



A “Book” Example

⁷ James D. G. Dunn, *Romans 1-8* (WBC 38A; Dallas: Word, 1998), 134.

¹¹ Dunn, *Romans 1-8*, 146.

Dunn, James D.G. *Romans 1-8*. Word Biblical Commentary 38A. Dallas: Word, 1998.



A “Journal Article” Example

⁸ Sydney H. T. Page, “Whose Ministry? A Re-appraisal of Ephesians 4:12,” *NovT* 47 (2005): 34.

¹¹ Page, “Whose Ministry?” 41.

Page, Sydney H. T. “Whose Ministry? A Re-appraisal of Ephesians 4:12.” *Novum Testamentum* 47 (2005): 26-46.



An “Article in Book” Example

⁶ Thomas Oden, “No Other Gods,” in *I Am the Lord Your God: Christian Reflections on the Ten Commandments* (ed. Carl E. Braaten and Christopher R. Seitz; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), 48.

Oden, Thomas. “No Other Gods.” Pages 41-54 in *I Am the Lord Your God: Christian Reflections on the Ten Commandments*. Edited by Carl E. Braaten and Christopher R. Seitz. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.