RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

Research papers can follow two different structures: inductive and deductive. Each structure acknowledges opposing perspectives and supports a thesis with evidence.

These principles come from Regent University’s ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 courses.

INDUCTIVE RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

The Inductive Paper – Proves one thesis through supporting evidence. It moves from one specific point to a more general application.

- Introduction – Explains key terms, introduces concepts behind the organizing principle, and addresses any relevant background information.
- Thesis – States one perspective that you intend to prove.
- Body Paragraphs – Each paragraph supports a specific part of your organizing principle. Present evidence and note the opposing perspectives that confront your evidence. Demonstrate how your perspective overcomes the opposition.
- Conclusion – Reframes your thesis, reiterates your main points, and contextualizes your argument.
DEDUCTIVE RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

The Deductive Paper – Describes different perspectives before establishing one thesis. It moves from multiple perspectives to one specific point.

**Introduction** – Explains key terms, summarizes perspectives, and addresses any relevant background information. Use an analytical thesis to present the issue and different perspectives.

**Different Perspectives** – Thoroughly describe each perspective, assessing its positive and negative attributes.

**Thesis** – Select one of the perspectives or propose a new perspective.

**Conclusion** – Explain how this perspective rises above the other perspectives.