

PAPER COMPARISONS

You may encounter many different styles of papers during your classes at Regent. Some have similar names or may seem to have the same purpose. This resource lists these papers, defines them briefly, and notes their differences.

These paper styles have full resources dedicated to them. You can find them under the Style section of our Resources page.

PAPER STYLES

1. **[Literary Analysis](#)** – These papers discuss key aspects of a book, poem, or article and argue a point. They can compare multiple works' concepts. Topics range from historical eras to themes to characters.
2. **[Literature Review](#)** – These papers survey relevant literature on a topic. Literature reviews combine and discuss up-to-date and peer-reviewed sources to present a summary of the current research on that topic.
3. **[Academic Summary](#)** – Academic Summaries summarize the main points of a source. These papers do not contain personal opinions or additional sources.
4. **[Analysis and Evaluation](#)** – These papers have two sections. The first part analyzes the author's argument by stating his thesis and supporting points. This section requires the writer to explain the argument's structure. The second part evaluates how well the author made his argument. The evaluation section allows you to argue why or why not his argument was effective.
5. **[Popular Press Article](#)** – Popular Press Articles are written for non-scholarly persons in the general public.
6. **[Historical Primary Source Papers](#)** – Primary Source Papers argue causations, correlations, or the value of historical situations, people, equipment, etc. These papers interpret history.
7. **[Narrative History Papers](#)** – Narrative History Papers describe history by analyzing historical events and noting the influence of preceding events. These papers follow a chronological or rational order of events regarding persons or key issues.
8. **[Historiography Papers](#)** – Historiography Papers summarize and critique the relevant histories of a topic from all different time periods. These papers put historians in conversation with each other.

COMPARISONS

- Literary Analysis vs. Literature Review** – Though these titles seem similar, two differences exist between the two.
 - A Literary Analysis is about one source and analyzes the themes, characters, dialogue, etc. to make an argument about the text. A Literary Analysis **argues** one main point.
 - Literature Reviews review a number of sources pertaining to a topic to present the body of research for a topic. A Literature Review **summarizes and synthesizes** information.
- Academic Summary vs. Analysis and Evaluation** – Though these papers seem to have similar purposes, a couple of significant differences exist.
 - An Academic Summary summarizes the main points of a source. Analysis and Evaluation papers do not summarize a source but break down the author’s argument.
 - An Academic Summary doesn’t argue a point, while an Analysis and Evaluation paper asserts whether an author effectively argued his point.
- Historical Research Papers vs. Narrative History Papers** – These papers have similar names but differ in purpose.
 - Historical Research Papers **interpret** history (i.e., argue something is true about history) while Narrative History Papers **describe** it (i.e., systematically state historical events and their precursors prior to arriving at any conclusions).
 - Historical Research Papers need an arguable thesis supported by logic and research. Narrative History Papers need a logical organization, which can be chronological, to describe the event.
- Historiography Papers vs. Literature Reviews** – While these papers have similar purposes, their content and sources differ.
 - Historiography Papers and Literature Reviews both cover writings on a given topic. Literature Reviews focus on relevant research; meanwhile, Historiography Papers primarily use histories, which may come from multiple eras.
 - While both of these papers are usually included in longer papers, Historiography Papers require a background of the **event** being studied. Literature Reviews present the research on the **topic**.

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