

RESEARCH PAPER

Use this as a checklist to make sure you have all components

Comprehension of course materials (30 points)

Demonstrates strong understanding of course themes and concepts 15/15

Uses course sources (readings/ lectures/guest speakers) appropriately to frame the research. 15/15

Evidence of careful research (50 points)

Articulates a clear research question about an issue of social inequality 10/10

Articulates clear connection/relevance of the issue to Los Angeles 10/10

Uses 3 or more appropriate additional/outside resources to deepen understanding of the issue 10/10 **(at least 3 ACADEMIC sources and an additional course source)**

Provides data/evidence that answers the research question 20/20

Clarity of writing (20 points)

Writing is clear, without substantial grammatical or spelling (or other) errors 10/10

Uses appropriate formatting and citations 10/10

Remember, every paper is going to look different. Follow your instincts about how to structure the paper in order to answer your question best. But perhaps this would help...

NOTE: THIS OUTLINE IS NOT APA FORMATTED, REFER TO https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa6_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html for APA GUIDELINES

(Section 1 of your paper: 1-2 pages giving context, definitions, all the information I need in order to understand the answer to your research question)

BACKGROUND/HISTORY/CONTEXT

- Give me all the information I need to understand what's going on: what have been historical trends in this area, were there laws in the past, what is the law/policy etc. you're referring to etc.
- What you include in this section is going to be largely dependent on what your particular paper is about

RESEARCH QUESTION

- You can include this in your background section or put it under its own header, up to you
- I think it flows much better as part of a paragraph but make sure it's clear what your research question is

KEY TERMS

- Give definition of any term that an average middle-schooler wouldn't know

POSITIONALITY

- Discuss how your identity or personal connection to the topic might enhance or bias your discussion of this topic

(Section 2 of your research paper: 3-4 pages answering your research question)

- Use headings to split this section into parts, it will be so different depending on your paper so I am not going to include a structure but it might be split into 3 reasons or taking us through a historical timeline or explaining multiple facets of something

(Section 3 of your research paper: 1 page giving questions for future research, limitations of what you were able to research, implications of your research→ note: in a research paper, you do not have a conclusion summarizing your research)

LIMITATIONS

- Was there only research on one population (boys) and you are interested in the effects on girls for instance
- Are we missing information for a certain period of time etc.

IMPLICATIONS

- This part is very important!!! Why should we care about the answer to your research question

QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Where should the next researcher pick up where you left off
- After doing this research question, what are the new questions you have about this topic