



Fall 2021

Syllabus

**How to Write an Academic Paper**

20 hours

**Stephanie Kae Richards**

## **Course Description:**

This course introduces the skills needed to write well-organized essays, focusing specifically on argumentative essays. Topics covered include thesis statement development, paragraph and overall paper structure, organizing and outlining, paraphrasing and summarizing, and citation and documentation standards.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will become familiar with how to write a well-organized and error-free argumentative research paper. By the end of the course students will be able to:
- 1) Reading – read and think critically about increasingly complex material.
  - 2) Rhetoric – understand the standard structure of a well-organized essay, write a strong, and developed thesis statement, understand how to write and use an outline.
  - 3) Research and Citation – search for and evaluate proper sources, be familiar with how to paraphrase and summarize others' arguments and cite them properly, understand how to avoid plagiarism.

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## **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:**

Lessons 1 and 2	General introduction to basic principles of how to write an academic paper in English Why writing is important What English speakers expect: structure, key components
Lessons 3 and 4	Before you write: brainstorming, outlines What is a research question?
Lessons 4 and 5	What is a thesis statement? The paragraph: structure, topic sentences, supporting ideas, topic vs. controlling idea.
Lessons 5 and 6	The paragraph, continued Transitions within and between paragraphs

Lessons 7 and 8	Research and citation: how to start, evaluating sources, summarizing and paraphrasing others' work, proper citation to avoid plagiarism, various citation systems in English.
Lessons 9 and 10	Research and citation, continued. Focusing on YOUR ideas, and learning how to bring them to the forefront of your paper Conclusions. How to bring it all together. How to self-edit and polish your paper to perfection.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Longman Academic Writing Series 4: Essays, with Essential Online Resources, 5th Edition. Available through Amazon and other providers.