

CLASS: III M.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUBJECT: POLITICS AND MASS MEDIA

SUBJECT CODE: 18BPO65S

FACULTY NAME: Dr. S. SIVARAJAN

MOBILE: 9994845333

UNIT-V

TERM PAPER

A term paper is a research paper written by students over an academic term, accounting for a large part of a grade. Merriam-Webster defines it as "a major written assignment in a school or college course representative of a student's achievement during a term". Term papers are generally intended to describe an event, a concept, or argue a point. It is a written original work discussing a topic in detail, usually several typed pages in length, and is often due at the end of a semester.

According to Wikipedia, a term paper definition is ‘any type of research-intensive paper authored by students over the course of an academic term. This paper typically accounts for a large part of their final course grade.’ Simply put, a term paper is a major writing assignment, in an academic setting, that is used to showcase a student’s understanding of course material or a specific topic.

A Term paper is a research paper required at the end of a school semester. It tracks and evaluates students’ knowledge about the course. Usually a scientific report or a discussion of an assigned topic, a term paper requires a lot of research and technical writing expertise. This academic writing assignment must be well-written, analytical, organized, and well-researched—as this reflects your knowledge of a certain course.

Instructors usually provide topics related to your course. However, sometimes you are free to choose your own topic. Try surfing the web, reading articles, news, magazines, and blogs to get ideas for your term paper. Make sure that the chosen topic will fulfill the objectives of your course and will interest you. If a certain topic interests you, researching and writing about it will be easier and more fun.

A term paper is an academic assignment, which is supposed to be written during a term and is responsible for at least 20% of the mark the student finally gets. In a term paper the student researches at length some subject (event, notion, point of view), related to the work done within the academic term. Generally, it is several typed pages, organized in conformity with strict format, which is of no less concern for the one who writes it, than the paper’s actual contents. A term paper is rather close in meaning to a research paper, still they aren’t identical.

term paper is a critical and analytical report on the topic or subject that you covered within the course of studies. It usually consists of two separate but equally important aspects: your own thoughts about the topic and a demonstration of your understanding of the existing literature. The main goal of this assignment is to summarize the material you learned and showcase your understanding of the topic. This aspect makes the term paper a universal instrument for assessing a student's proficiency. It also explains why term papers cost so many points of your course grade.

PREPARATION & PRESENTATION

Choose your topic. Try to make it as creative as possible; if you're given the opportunity to choose your own, take advantage of this. Choose something you're particularly interested in because this will make it easier to write; in particular, try to select the topic as a result of pressing questions you already know you want to search for answers to. Once you've decided on a topic, be sure to hone down it to a do-able topic; often a topic is initially too broad in its coverage, which will make it impossible to complete within the time and space constraints given. Narrow down your topic to something that can really be worked within the boundaries of the paper. If the topic is already chosen for you, start exploring unique angles that can set your content and information apart from the more obvious approaches many others will probably take. Finally, whatever angle your topic takes, it should be both original in approach and insightful, something the reader will be drawn into and fascinated by.

Do your research. It's pointless to launch into writing before you've done the research. You need to understand the background to the topic and the current thinking, as well as finding out what future research is considered necessary in the area. While it may be tempting to rehash information you already know really well, avoid doing this or you learn nothing from the research and writing process. Go into research with a sense of adventure and an openness to learning things you've yet to grasp, as well as being ready to discover new ways of looking at old problems. When researching, use both primary (original text, document, legal case, interviews, experiment, etc.) and secondary (other people's interpretations and explanations of the primary source) sources. There is also a place for discussing with like-minded students and even finding online discussions about the topic if you feel comfortable doing this but these discussions are for idea-sharing and helping you to get your ideas and are not usually quotable sources. For more information, here are some helpful resources to check out:

Refine your thesis statement. After you've done the research, reflect back over the chosen topic. At this point, it's essential to pinpoint the single, strong idea you'll be discussing, your assertion that you believe you can

defend throughout the paper and that makes it clear to a reader what they're about to learn about and be given a sound conclusion on. Your thesis statement is the spine of your essay, the idea that you'll go on to defend in the paragraphs that follow. Serve it up half-baked and the remainder of the paper is bound to be flavorless. Construct a thesis that your research has proven is interesting to you – that way, backing it up won't be such a bore. Once you're satisfied that your topic is sound and clarified, proceed to writing your first draft.

Develop an outline for the paper. Some people can work on a term paper skipping this step; they're a rare and often time-pressed breed. It is far better to have an outline sketched out so that you know where you're headed, just as a road map helps you to know where you're going from A to B. Like the entire paper, the outline is not set in stone but subject to changes. However, it does give you a sense of structure and a framework to fall back on when you lose your way mid paper and it also serves as the skeleton of your paper, and the rest is just filling in the details. There are different approaches to developing an outline and you may even have your own personal, preferred method. As a general guidance, some of the basic elements of an outline should include

Make your point in the introduction. The introductory paragraph is challenging but avoid turning it into a hurdle. Of all the paper, this is the part often most likely to be rewritten as you continue working through the paper and experience changes of direction, flow and outcome. As such, see it as simply a means of getting started and remind yourself that it's always revisable. This approach allows you the freedom to mess it up but rectify it as needed. Also use this as an opportunity to help yourself come to grips with the general organization of the term paper by explaining the breakdown, something the reader will also need to be aware of from the start. Try using HIT as the means for getting your introduction underway

Convince the reader with your body paragraphs. Make sure each paragraph supports your argument in a new way. Not sure your body's up to task? Try isolating the first sentence of each paragraph; together, they should read like a list of evidence that proves your thesis.

Conclude with strength. Try using the ROCC method:

- Restate your thesis statement.
- One important detail which is usually found in your last paragraph.
- Conclude – wrap it up.
- Clincher – where you give the reader something left to think about.

Show some style. Using outside sources? Find out which citation style your instructor prefers, MLA or APA (or other style if you're not in the USA). Each has a precise notation system, so if you're unsure of the rules, check the manual (online versions are available at owl.English.Purdue.EU). Peppering quotes throughout your text is certainly a good way to help make your point, but don't overdo it and take care not to use so many quotes as the embodiment of your points that you're basically allowing other authors to make the point and write the paper for you.

DISCUSSION

A discussion paper is actually a discussion about some topic. Are you surprised? Yes, this is the definition, however, if you don't have good writing skills, it is not so easy to write it. But don't worry, that's why we collected here some tips that will definitely help you.

First of all, never select a topic that doesn't touch you. Even if you like the topic, you might find it complicated to write about it. If you want to write a nice discussion paper, you should express different ideas and opinions on the given topic and provide a discussion based on those ideas and opinions. So, it is always better to select something that you really like. Now, let us move to more detailed instructions and tips.

Don't hurry to start writing. First, check properly all the sources and select materials that you might need to use. Are there new opinions on the topic? Which of them do you support? Which of them do you consider to be not okay? How can you arrange them in a way to build a nice meaningful discussion paper?

Select those materials that are reliable enough. Rainbow press, for example, could be good just for a very limited number of topics. But in most cases, you should rely on expert opinions. Select those that you might want to use to substantiate your ideas that you want to discuss. Arrange them in a logical order. Usually, you might want to arrange them in order, appropriate for the discussion logics. Make a plan.

Many students don't write a plan at all, and this is a huge mistake. When you are working on your essay plan, you are not only arranging your thoughts, but you create the structure for your paper. It is easier to remake a frame rather than the entire construction. So, if there is something that needs to be changed, you better change it at the planning stage rather than when the paper is written.

After having hooked your reader, move to the main part. Your task here is to introduce the topic, the main ideas, and expert opinions, as well as your views, and to provide a discussion of those ideas and opinions that you have mentioned. You have several ways to discuss:

- You can discuss everything idea by idea, providing its advantages and disadvantages;
- You might want to give your personal idea and base the discussion on it, and you may use other ideas to prove your opinion.
- You can group all ideas based on some features and discuss the ideas groups.
- Or you can invent your own unique method of organizing your discussion paper.

However, doesn't matter what way you select, there are some rules that apply to any kind of paper. Whatever you are writing, you should follow these rules, because those are the basics of good writing:

- Be consistent, because jumping from one idea to another is confusing and doesn't make your paper logical.
- Discuss all those ideas mentioned by you, don't leave any idea or opinion unattended.
- Write in an easy-to-read manner — you are writing an essay, not a scientific work.
- Structure your work logically — the reader should not look for information too long.
- Make an excellent introduction and a nice conclusion for your discussion paper.

By the way, now, we came to the point when we need to speak more about a conclusion. So, how to end a discussion paper in a nice way? How not to spoil all impression from your essay with a poorly written conclusion?

Well, if you have managed to move so far, then, a proper conclusion should not cause any difficulties. Just sum up everything. What was the topic? Why was it relevant? What are the ideas about the issue and how do they support your idea or contradict it? Which conclusion have you made? And that's it, you have written a high-quality, unique paper.

So, you have already noticed, that the discussion paper format isn't much different from a usual paper format. The only thing, which differs here, is the discussion presence. You give different, sometimes contrasting ideas, as well, you discuss them from different points of view in a search for a solution.

The discussion is a section in a research paper where you need to provide meaning, significance and relevance of research results. When writing the research paper discussion you should concentrate on providing explanations and evaluation of findings. It is very much important for you to demonstrate how your research findings relate to the literature review and also research questions. At the time of writing the discussion section for a research paper you need to provide an argument for supporting the overall conclusion. There are several techniques that you can utilize for writing research paper discussion. It is very much crucial for you to concentrate on 4 elements these are:

Interpretation: The meaning of results

The implication of the study

Limitation of the study

Recommendation for future research

You can include the discussion and conclusion section in one section. Before combining the conclusion and discussion section you need to consult with your supervisor. You can also review the guidelines for analyzing the requirements to combine the conclusion and discussion chapter.

How to write a discussion section for a research paper?

The 5 step process of writing the discussion section in the research paper is:

Step 1: Summarizing key findings

You need to begin writing the discussion section by stating the research problem. After describing the problem statement you need to provide a summary of key findings. You should not repeat all information. At this step, it is very much important for you to provide a clear statement of the result. You should provide a direct answer to the main research questions. The writer needs to provide an answer to the research question in just a single paragraph.

Step 2: Providing interpretations

Here, you need to clearly state the importance of your research for the reader. It is very much essential for you to demonstrate how you have answer research questions. The form of interpretation of the result is completely based on the type of research you are performing. Numbers of approaches which you can utilize for interpretation of findings are:

Identify correlation, the relationship between data

Discuss whether research results have been able to fulfill your expectation or not

Contextualize research finding

Clearly state unexpected outcome and evaluate the importance

Think about final alternatives explanations for arguments

You should provide your interpretations. When providing the interpretation you should review your literature. When writing the discussion section for the research paper, you need to clearly state how the research findings match with your existing knowledge. You should also write how the findings of your research have provided new knowledge. It is very crucial for you to clearly state the cost of specific issues is not resolved on time. At this step, your aim should be to demonstrate the reader exactly what contribution you have made in a specific field by researching a particular topic.

Step 4: Acknowledgment of limitations

All types of research have a certain type of limitation. It is very much important for you to acknowledge such limitations, as these tactics will help you in demonstrating the credibility. When facilitating discussion you need to provide a complete and correct picture about things which can be concluded from research. Limitations might occur due to the selection of an inappropriate research design or occurrence of unanticipated hurdles during research. When writing the discussion section you should only include such limitations that are directly related to your research objectives. It is a step where you should also analyze the way the following limitation could influence accomplishing the aim of the research.

Step 5: Provide recommendations

Based on the discussion on outcomes, you need to make suggestions that could be applied for performing research in the future. You can keep suggestions to write in the conclusion section of the research paper.

You can provide suggestions based on the limitation of the research. When providing suggestions in the discussion section of the research paper you need to share concrete ideas about how future work can be built on fields that personal research was unable to identify: