

## **Short Research Papers, Due weeks 3 and 6, 3-5 Pages**

**This document provides important information to help you write a great research paper. You can use Chicago/Turabian, APA, or MLA styles. See subject examples below which must be narrowed into a topic and research question. You must use credible academic sources. See information below.**

**Resources to help you write a great research paper:**

- **This document**
- **Purdue OWL, Choose one style: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>**
- **Guidance in the APUS library.**
- **Examples of great student papers in the APUS library and in the course.**

### **Possible Topic Categories**

**Please narrow down the topic from any of the items below and feel free to select a topic not on the list. For example, instead of Arthur as President, write about corruption in the Arthur administration. The topic selected must be substantially different than the one you write about in your other paper. This list is not all inclusive and you are free to choose a post-1877 American topic.**

1. Arthur as President
2. "Jim Crow"
3. Boss Tweed
4. J.P. Morgan
5. The Transcontinental Railroad
6. The Steel Industry
7. J.D. Rockefeller
8. The American Labor Movement
9. The New Immigration
10. Booker T. Washington
11. The Growth of American Cities
12. The Suffrage Movement
13. The Indian Wars
14. The Settlement of the West
15. The Populist Movement
16. William Jennings Bryan
17. The Spanish American War
18. Theodore Roosevelt
19. The Conquest of the Philippines
20. Theodore Roosevelt and the Monroe Doctrine
21. The Building of the Panama Canal
22. The Great White Fleet
23. The Conservation Movement
24. Woodrow Wilson
25. The United States in World War I
26. The Sinking of the Lusitania
27. Wilson's Fourteen Points

28. Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference
29. The United States and the League of Nations
30. The Roaring Twenties
31. Prohibition
32. Herbert Hoover
33. The Scopes Monkey Trial
34. The Rise of Professional Sports
35. The Stock Market Crash of 1929
36. Interwar U.S. Foreign Policy
37. The Washington Naval Treaty
38. Franklin D. Roosevelt
39. The New Deal
40. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
41. The Bonus March of 1932
42. The America First Movement
43. U.S. Neutrality 1939-1941
44. Lend-Lease
45. America's Entry into WWII
46. George C. Marshall
47. Any U.S. Military Leader of World War II
48. Individual Battles and Campaigns of World War II
49. The U.S. Army in World War II
50. The U.S. Navy in World War II
51. Allied Grand Strategy in World War II
52. The United States and the Atomic Bomb
53. Women in the Military: World War II
54. The Battle of Midway
55. Douglas MacArthur
56. The Truman Doctrine
57. Post War American Society
58. The Early Days of the Cold War
59. The Civil Rights Movement
60. Martin Luther King
61. The Occupation of Germany
62. The Korean War
63. MacArthur in Japan
64. The Red Scare
65. Senator Joseph McCarthy
66. Eisenhower as President
67. The Sixties
68. John F. Kennedy
69. The Bay of Pigs
70. The Cuban Missile Crisis
71. Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society
72. Any Aspect of the Vietnam War
73. Nixon and Vietnam

74. Nixon and China
  75. Watergate
  76. The Arab Oil Embargo of 1973
  77. Feminism
  78. Jimmy Carter as President
  79. The Reagan Revolution
  80. Arms Control Treaties
  81. Reagan and the Soviet Union
  82. George Bush and the End of the Cold War
  83. Desert Shield/Desert Storm
  84. The Impeachment of Bill Clinton
  85. The United States in the Post Cold War World
  86. The 2000 Presidential Election
  87. The Bush Administration
  88. The War on Terrorism
  89. Immigration in the 1990s
  90. Minorities in Contemporary America
  91. The Changing American Family
  92. The Drug Wars
  93. The United States and the Global Economy
  94. PAX Americana
  95. Contemporary American Foreign Policy
  96. The United States Military in the 21st Century
  97. U.S. Policy Toward Cuba
  98. Operation Iraqi Freedom
  99. The War in Afghanistan
  100. Kosovo Crisis 1999
  101. The Middle East Technology Revolution
- AND MANY MORE (>1877 and American)...**

## **Acceptable Academic Research Sources**

There have been many questions on what sources are acceptable for academic referencing. Below is something I copied from the APUS library. How and where you access the source is not important; its academic validity is. **Your best bets are books and journal articles.** **You can never cite wikipedia or encyclopedias of any type.**

### B. Peer-Reviewed/Refereed/Scholarly Journals

Whenever you receive a research assignment in college, instructors normally assume that you will avoid citing “popular” web sites, magazines and newspapers. While useful for context and anecdotes, such resources often lack the rigor needed for university studies. Similarly, you are advised to avoid citing Wikipedia. It can be an excellent launching pad; but, as an encyclopedia, is considered common knowledge and not to be formally cited.

Instead, your professors expect you to reference and be party to an established professional literature. This typically includes monographic book-length studies, but especially focuses on articles from peer-reviewed or refereed scholarly journals.

What does “scholarly,” “refereed,” or “peer-reviewed” really mean? Essentially, it implies academic “quality control”—articles by scholars that meet the publications standards as vetted by other scholars in the field. The submission has been inspected by a publication panel or individual reviewers, who are experts on the topic (that is, the author’s professional peers; hence, “peer-reviewed”). Reviewers or “referees” look for proper use of research methods, significance of the article’s contribution to the existing literature, and appropriate scholarly style. As signified by their publication in a peer-reviewed journal, accepted materials have earned the expert stamp of approval.

Online Library Research: But, with so many articles out there, how do you know if an article has been peer-reviewed? The Online Library’s article databases can help. The main suites, Ebsco and ProQuest, give you the option of limiting your searches to articles from scholarly journals. Find and check this option below the search box, and your results will be only expert-approved articles. (See: Ebsco example).

Other databases, like PsycARTICLES and Sage Criminology, automatically search only peer-reviewed journals. A simple click filters out popular sources that you can’t use from the appropriate literature. Can’t find the article databases...or don’t know which are the best to search for your topic? Of course, if you’ve already found an article that you’d like to use in a research paper but you’re not sure if it’s popular or scholarly, there are ways to tell. The table below lists some of the most obvious clues (but your librarians will be happy to help you figure it out as well—e-mail [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu)!).

## SCHOLARLY

Authors’ names, credentials and even addresses are almost always included (so that interested researchers can correspond). Authors will be experts in their fields. Articles are written for experts (or college students!) in the field (lots of technical language and/or discipline specific jargon, statistical analyses, written in a formal tone).

Articles typically report, in great detail, the authors’ own research findings (and include support from other research)...these articles will be more than just 1 or 2 pages.

Authors always cite their sources throughout the article, normally in conformance with a Style Manual, and include list of references at the end.

The journal has very specific guidelines for articles to be published (often this information can be found on the journal’s web site), and a rigorous peer-review process (each article will list when it was submitted to the reviewers, and when it was accepted for publication...often several months apart!).