

Research Paper

Your finished paper should be a **presentation of your own thinking backed up by the ideas or information of others in the field.**

A paper can be:

ANALYTICAL that is using **evidence to analyze facets of an issue**

ARGUMENTATIVE that is uses **evidence to attempt to convince the reader of your particular stance on a debatable topic.**

The choice of one of the two types will determine the **purpose of the paper you are going to write.**

“To analyze means to break a topic or a concept down into its parts in order **to inspect and understand it, and to restructure those parts in a way that makes sense to you**”.

In an analytical research paper , you do research to become an **expert on a topic** so that you can restructure and present the parts of the topic from your own perspective.

In this brand of research paper you go into the researching stage with **a specific topic about which you have not made any kind of conclusions.**

This is often called a **research question.**

Your task is to survey the information and views already out there both **before** and **once you become familiar with the topic.**

That will require **critical thinking and reading plus evaluation** of the **resources** you may decide to handle.