

The final research paper should be 15 pages in length (double-spaced) not including title page, abstract, and references. The standard research paper has seven key sections.

1. **Title Page and Abstract**-Include the title and author, and brief abstract (one paragraph) of your paper. The abstract should give an overview of what you plan to accomplish in the paper.
2. **Introduction**-Here you introduce the reader to the research question you seek to address and briefly describe how you plan to answer this question. It should be clear in this section why this research question is important-it can be important for a variety of reasons (policy implications, substantive understanding of a little known strike phenomena, etc.). This section sets the stage for the rest of the paper and should conclude with a brief "roadmap" of the rest of the paper.
3. **Literature Review**-In this section you review research that has already been done in your area of interest on strikes. You should cite at least four scientific (as opposed to popular) sources. Not only should you note what these other researchers have found, but you should also describe how you plan to build upon their research. In this section you should also include at least one hypothesis you plan on testing.
4. **Data collection**-It is in this section where you will be discussing most of the issues we will go over in class. Although everyone is doing the same data collection, be sure to include the following topics: unit of analysis, population of interest, sampling strategy, conceptualization and operationalization of key measures (including reliability and validity issues, if appropriate), importance of time (cross section or longitudinal) and data collection strategy. When we go over each of these issues in class, think about how they apply to your particular research question. You do not necessarily have to go into great detail for each particular topic, but you need to include enough information so that if the reader was interested, she or he could replicate your study. Probably the central discussion should be your research strategy-everything else relates to how you collect your data.
5. **Data Analysis**-Here you report and interpret your findings. Be sure to relate this discussion to the hypothesis you developed earlier in the paper.
6. **Conclusion**-In this section you should provide a brief summary of your paper, including the findings. In addition, you should be able to discuss the general implications and contributions that your research makes to our understanding of the subject matter in question.
7. **Reference**-Citations of outside literature-use a standard format (ASA, APA).

Brief considerations when writing your proposal:

1. The recitation sections are set up explicitly to address many elements of the research paper. Therefore, I suggest you use the recitations as effectively as possible.
2. I strongly recommend that you meet with your TA or me to discuss your paper.
3. Always write in the first person. You, not someone else, are responsible for the strengths and weaknesses of the paper.
4. Use a standard format when citing literature (APA, ASA). I will give you an example of how to cite a book and a journal article in ASA format. If you have a question about citing other sources, such as a newspaper article, please see me.
5. Never copy directly from someone else's work without identifying where the information came from. If you quote a paper word for word, include quotes around it and identify the source and page where it is located. If you do not, this is considered plagiarism and is a violation of academic integrity.
6. Finally, good sociology is both solid research design and clear writing. Therefore, avoid jargon when possible. An excellent guidebook for this is Howard Becker's *Writing for the Social Scientists*.

FINAL PAPER GRADE EVALUATION

Winter 2007

(This is the form that will be used to evaluate your final paper.)

Directions: Your paper will be reviewed by sections. The checks or circles indicate the evaluation of your paper. If something is not checked or circled, it means that the comment or point does not apply to you. Each section includes a point value out of 100 points

I. Abstract and title page (5)

Excellent

Good

Fair

Needs Serious work

--Does not provide a brief discussion of the research subject

--Does not include a short description of the research methodology

Comments:

II. Introduction (10)

Excellent

Good

Fair

Needs Serious work

--Does not provide an overview of the subject matter

--Little or no effort to discuss why the subject matter is important

--No introduction to the research methodology

--“Road map” unclear or missing

Comments:

III. Literature Review (20)

Excellent

Good

Fair

Needs Serious work

--You do not cite an adequate number of articles/books

--You need transition sentences between literature sources

--You do not discuss reasons for doing the research

--You do not include at least one formal hypothesis

--You do not use the literature you reviewed to support your hypothesis

--The order that you have discussed the literature sources is

- confusing and needs to be reorganized
- You do not discuss how your research will build upon previous literature you cite

Comments:

III. Methods Section (20)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- You do not clearly describe how the data were gathered
- You do not clearly describe the characteristics of your sample
- You did not discuss the possibility of sample bias
- You did not describe your unit of analysis
- You did not include a discussion of the time period analyzed
- You do not adequately describe how newspapers stories were collected or coded
- You do not clearly describe the independent and dependent variables
- You did not discuss how you measured your variables
- You did not discuss how you assessed the reliability and validity of the measures

Comments:

IV. Results/ Findings (10)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- The section is not organized well and it is difficult to discern the major findings.
- It is difficult to tell to which table you are referring to in the text
- The findings are confusing and difficult to read
- You made a mistake when analyzing the data
- You did not interpret either the correlation or crosstab correctly

Comments:

V. Discussion and Conclusion (10)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- You do not summarize your findings.
- You do not tie the literature you reviewed to your findings and explain if the findings supported or contradicted previous research
- You have no concluding paragraph that summarizes the importance of your research and direction for future research

Comments:

VI. References (5)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- They are not in ASA or APA format
- They still are NOT alphabetized by author

Comments:

VII. Tables (5)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- You do not have table headings
- You do not list the number of cases in your table
- They are not percentaged correctly
- It is the SPSS output and not tables

Comments:

VIII. Formatting and Appearance (5)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- Your headings are not clear
- The paper is not printed clearly
- You do not have a title page
- Your sections are not merged together
- The sections of your paper are NOT in the correct order

Comments:

IX. Writing and Style (10)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Needs Serious work

- Ideas not well articulated
- Spelling and typos
- Poor grammar and sentence structure

Comments:

Final Paper Grade: