



**Common Core Writing Strand: The Research Paper  
Research Paper Template for Standards 7-8**

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Question (That is, what question are you answering in this research paper?): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduction**

Lead/attention-grabber (relevant quotation, definition, research question, etc.):

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Thesis Statement (Claim):

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**Counterargument (1 paragraph)**

Transitional word or phrase to lead in to your counterargument:

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Topic Sentence/Lead-in \_\_\_\_\_

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Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

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Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

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Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your counterargument?

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Transition to next idea:

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**Claim/ Reason/ Evidence (3 Paragraphs)**

**Paragraph 1**

Topic Sentence/Lead in: \_\_\_\_\_

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Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

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Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

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Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, “This shows that...” or “This proves that...”

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Transition to next idea:

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**Paragraph 2**

Topic Sentence/Lead in: \_\_\_\_\_

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Context of your next source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

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Quote/Paraphrase your next source. Include citation information!

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Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, “This shows that...” or “This proves that...”

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Transition to next idea:

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**Paragraph 3**

Topic Sentence/Lead in: \_\_\_\_\_

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Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

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Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

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Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, "This shows that..." or "This proves that..."

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Transition to next idea:

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**Conclusion**

(DO NOT repeat, summarize, or restate here! You should ONLY be drawing conclusions about your research! Please do not restate your thesis.)

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