

The Writing-Intensive Component of the Course

Research Paper (undergrads)

Grant Proposal (graduate students)

Breaking Down the Research Paper (Grant Proposal)

Sept 12	Locating sources using the web
Sept 26	<i>Navigating a Scientific Paper</i>
Oct 10	<i>Research Questions Due</i> Peer Workshop: <i>Research Questions</i> Workshop: Plagiarism
Oct 15	<i>Research Prospectus Due</i>
Nov 12	<i>First Draft of Research Paper Due</i>
Nov 21	Peer Workshop: First Draft
Nov 26	<i>Second Draft of Research Paper Due</i>
Dec 8	<i>Final Draft of Research Paper Due</i>

Research Paper Grade (25% of total grade)

Research Questions	5%
Research Prospectus	5%
Peer Response Workshop participation	10%
Revision Memo - accompanies Second Draft	2.5%
Cover Letter - accompanies Final Draft	2.5%
Final Paper	75%

What makes a good Research Paper question?

Example: turning a “topic” into a “research question”

- Topic: The Effects of Nitrogen on Decomposition
- Research Question 1: How does nitrogen affect decomposition rates?
- Research Question 2: Why do some studies show positive while others show negative effects of nitrogen on decomposition?

Example: turning a “topic” into a “research question”

- Topic: The Environmental Effects of Using Biofuels
- Research Question 1: What are the environmental effects of using biofuels?
- Research Question 2: How do different biofuels compare in terms of the ratio of environmental costs vs. environmental benefits of using them?