

# Core C Research Paper Parent Checklist

Note to Parent: Thank you for helping your student revise the research paper. Print out a copy of the “best yet” draft and read and discuss the draft and this checklist, taking time to walk through each step of the checklist with your student! You will submit this checklist and the marked up draft with the final paper.

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction

- Contains a minimum of 6 sentences.
- Begins with an attention getter (“hook”) that draws the reader in to the essay.
- Narrows to the thesis (i.e. connects the general hook to the specific thesis).
  - ⇒ Avoids choppiness and wordiness
  - ⇒ Introduces topic without giving details that are repeated in the thesis or essay
- Contains a persuasive thesis statement that clearly communicates the purpose of the paper.

## Body Paragraphs

- Contain persuasive topic sentences that directly support the thesis.
- Contain textual evidence (examples/quotes/summaries from sources) to support topic sentence claim.
  - ⇒ Each example should include a quote introduction before the quote AND commentary after the quote
  - ⇒ Commentary should connect the quote to the topic sentence
- Contain **textual evidence from multiple sources** (should cite more than one source per paragraph).
- Contain appropriate transitions between examples/evidences
- Contain transition statements between paragraphs.
  - ⇒ transitions may be at the end of a paragraph or as part of the topic sentence
- Are written in the third-person (no “I”, “we”, “our”, or “you”)
- Contain a minimum of 7 sentences
- Use strong, formal wording (avoid passive voice, no informal/conversational diction)
  - ⇒ (i.e. be-verbs, stands as, exists as, got, contractions, etc.)
  - ⇒ Pay attention to sentence opener variety (no two sentences in the paragraph start with the same word)

## Refutation

- At least one paragraph of refutation included.
- Refutation topic sentence includes BOTH a turn against and a turn back.
  - ⇒ i.e. Some may claim... (turn against) ; however, ... (turn back)
- Includes evidence to support the turn against (first half of paragraph).
- Includes evidence to support the turn back (second half of paragraph).

## In-text Citations

- Each paragraph contains a minimum of 2 citations (from two different sources).
- Includes proper elements (first word of Works Cited entry).
  - ⇒ For books/database articles: author's last name and page number (Twain 34).
  - ⇒ For websites (not Ebscohost): author's last name only (Skidmore).
  - ⇒ For sources with no author: title of article in quotes ("Zeus" 64), title of books in italics (*Zeus* 77).
  - ⇒ Use proper spacing: one space after end of sentence, like this (Smith 22).
  - ⇒ Use proper punctuation: period at the end, like this (Thompson 34).

## Conclusion

- Restates the thesis in different words.
- Summarizes claims made in the body paragraphs.
  - ⇒ Please note: rather than simply restating the main points, show how all of the points work together to support your thesis.
  - ⇒ Use transitions between ideas – this should not feel like a list of points.
- Ends with a memorable clincher statement (refer to hook, if possible).
- Minimum of 5 sentences.

## Works Cited Page

- Is on a separate page.
- Is properly formatted: spacing, punctuation, indenting (after first line).
- Is properly alphabetized (by first word of entry).
- Contains proper spelling and punctuation.
- Contains at least two books.
- Contains at least 6 sources
  - ⇒ Double check to make sure ALL 6 sources are cited in the paper.

## Stylistic Details

- The paper is between 1500-2200 words (not counting Works Cited page).
- The writing is neatly typed, spell-checked, and free of errors.
- The writing contains a creative title that relates to the topic.
- The title is properly centered and formatted (same font size as essay).
- The writing appears to be the student's best effort.

## MLA

- The paper is typed in Times New Roman font (check header font, too).
- The paper is double spaced with no extra space between paragraph.
- Heading: Correctly formatted heading w/o any extra spaces between lines.
- Header: The student's last name and page number appears in the top right corner of each page.
- Margins are set to 1 inch on all sides.

## Final Research Paper - Folder Checklist

**\*\*Final research papers must be turned in on Monday, February 12. In addition to your hard copy, please submit a copy of your paper to Turnitin. Please turn in your paper in a two-pocket folder organized as follows:**

### Left side:

- This checklist with the marked-up draft
- Note cards (in plastic baggie) organized in order of appearance in paper  
—you do not need to turn in note cards not used in your paper.

### Right Side:

- Final Research Paper
- Blank Rubric

**\*\*Points will be deducted for any item listed above that is not turned in with your final paper\*\***