

The following is a guideline of what I expect from your research paper. You are not required to follow the format exactly, but make sure you have all of the elements regardless of how you structure your paper.

Introduction:

Define the type of oppression you have selected and state your thesis. Your thesis should define what your entire paper will be about (ex: America has come a long way since the days of slavery, but there is still much work to do in order to eradicate racism from our country entirely.)

Body:

- Give a brief history of your chosen type of oppression. How did it start? Who has it affected historically? What are some examples from the past?
- Provide **at least one** in-depth example from the past ten years that illustrates this type of oppression. Provide details and an explanation as to how this example fits within the definition of “oppression,” and specifically the type of oppression you have chosen (sexism, racism, ableism, etc.).
- You may consider comparing this example to examples from the past or other examples of oppression.
- Discuss whether or not anything has been done to remedy or prevent this type of oppression, whether these attempts were successful, etc. Are there any laws in place or in the works that are meant to protect the oppressed group, and do these laws work?

Conclusion:

Conclude with a personal reflection on your specific type of oppression, the examples you’ve given, and suggested methods for addressing the problem moving forward.

Helpful hints:

- Keep in mind this is a formal research paper, so avoid the use of “I” and “me.”
- Also avoid contractions.
- If you say something in your paper, have the research to back it up, and provide evidence from your sources.
- What counts as an “example”?
 - Personal accounts from individuals (see how to cite a personal interview)
 - Anything reported in the news or media

Types of evidence: personal accounts, news/newspaper/magazine articles, experts (doctors, lawyers, scholars, etc.), books, at least one scholarly article.