

**How to Structure MA Research Paper**  
(each section below is a requirement of the paper)

- 1, Introduction (1 or 1 ½ pages)
  - a. Gain the reader's attention/interest by pointing out the importance of the topic (we'll call the topic "xxx").
  - b. State the purpose of the paper (i.e., to provide a thorough review of the existing scientific studies that have examined xxx—the topic of your paper)
  - c. End the introduction with something like: Provided below is first a definition of XXX, this is followed by an overview of relevant research that has been done on the topic and areas where research is still needed.
2. Definition of XXX
3. Organize the relevant existing research into three to five sub areas. Then, have a sub-heading for the first sub-area followed by a review of the literature on the sub-area; follow this with a second sub-heading and review of literature on this second sub-area. Continue for three to five sub-areas.
4. Summary and Conclusion: provide a brief summary of what you have presented in the paper and then discuss what conclusions might be reached including what future research appears to be needed.
5. The paper should be roughly 10 – 12 pages.