

VII. Writing the Research Paper

1. Organization of Information

Now that you have gathered the pertinent information for a research topic, the next step is to organize the material. In writing a research paper, information can be grouped according to subject. For example, in using the Internet/web to gather information, may bookmark them under a concept. One of the best ways to organize information is to create an outline, a framework for development of the topic. In an outline information is arranged by hierarchy and sequence. This is done by an introduction and identification of main topics, subtopics, detailed information under subtopics, a conclusion, and citing of research sources. An outline can also include a preface or foreword and table of contents.

A sample outline may look like this:

I. Main Topic

- A. Sub-Topic
 - 1. Detail
 - 2. Detail
 - 3. Detail
- B. Sub-Topic
 - 1. Detail
 - 2. Detail
 - 3. Detail
- C. Sub-Topic
 - 1. Detail
 - 2. Detail
 - 3. Detail

For example, the book titled *The History of Music in Performance*, by Frederick Dorian is outlined in the following way:

Foreword by Eugene Ormandy

Introductory Note and Acknowledgements

Prologue – Interpretation: Applied Musicology

Part I: The Birth of Modern Interpretation

- Chapter 1 From Renaissance to Baroque
- Chapter 2 The Baroque
- Chapter 3 Rococo and Enlightenment

Part II: Classicism: the Script Becomes Binding

Chapter 4 Phrasing and Dynamics
Chapter 5 Tempo and Metronome
Chapter 6 Victory of Form

Part III: Romanticism

Chapter 7 Classical Romanticism
Chapter 8 Power and Virtuosity
Chapter 9 Corrections
Chapter 10 Opera
Chapter 11 Between Two Epochs

Part IV: The Objective Present

Chapter 12 Historical Correctness
Chapter 13 The Objective Revolt
Chapter 14 New Gateways of Interpretation
Chapter 15 The American Scene

Crucible of Music
Jazz: a Return to Improvisation
Cosmopolitan Trends
Americanism: Humanity

Epilogue

Bibliography and References

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In this example, the author organized the information into four Main Topics (Parts I-IV). The chapters under each part can be considered as sub-topics, with chapters 1-3 under Part I; 4-6 under Part II; 7-11 under Part III; and 12-15 under Part IV. An example of further detail is “Jazz: a Return to Improvisation”, specifically discussed in Chapter 15.

2. Citing Sources and Ethical Issues

In writing a research paper, outside support is needed to support the thesis or point of view being presented. The information and work from other scholars, researchers, experts, and other sources is used for this purpose. As a result, when someone else’s ideas or material is incorporated into new research, it is expected that credit be given to the original author(s).

This is done by citing or documenting other authors' works in the text of the research paper.

These citations should be as complete as possible and conform to the designated standards for the type of research being presented. The failure to cite materials from other sources is unethical and is known as plagiarism.

A variety of formats are used, depending on the subject matter, preferences, and/or standards of places where research is submitted and presented. Formats used in academic and research settings include the following:

Science - CBE (Council of Biology Editors)

Social Sciences - APA (American Psychological Association)

Humanities - MLA (Modern Language Association)

History – University of Chicago Manual of Style*

(*Note: The (Kate L.)Turabian Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations is also preferred by some professors and institutions, and is similar to the University of Chicago style.)

Print copies for most of these style manuals are available in the Reference Department, 2nd Floor, Brown-Daniel Library, Main Campus and/or the Avon Williams Campus Library.

Internet/Web searches by titles of style manuals will retrieve many useful links to information on the various citation formats, some with detailed examples.

The following examples are from two style formats commonly used at TSU:

American Psychological Association (APA)

Book

Porter, E. C. (2002). What is this thing called jazz?: African American musicians as artists, critics, and activists. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Journal

Bastien, David, and Hostager, T.

(1992, Summer). Cooperation as communicative accomplishment: a symbolic interaction analysis of an improvised jazz concert.
Communication Studies, 43 (2), 92-104.

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Book

Alexander, J. Heywood. To Stretch Our Ears: A Documentary History of America's Music. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002.

Journal (scholarly)

Allen, Geri. "The Art of Jazz and the Creative Process." International Jazz Archives Journal 1.3 (1995): 88-92.

In music, as in other subject areas, research information will come from other formats (recordings, reviews, interviews, audiovisual and multimedia formats, electronic resources, etc.). Please consult the appropriate style manual for specifics in citing these sources.