# What is the Difference Between a Research Paper and an Essay?

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<th>Research Paper</th>
<th>Essay</th>
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<td>Reseaching and expressing other’s points of view on a topic, as well as incorporating your insights and ideas</td>
<td>Usually your point of view</td>
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<td>Long in length, at least 8 pages</td>
<td>Short in length with an average of 5 paragraphs</td>
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<td>Requires comprehensive understanding of a topic by researching it thoroughly</td>
<td>Does not necessarily require a comprehensive understanding of a particular topic</td>
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<td>Familiarity required with research writings associated with a chosen topic</td>
<td>Familiarity may or may not be required with other research or writing</td>
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<td>Helps build writers knowledge of a topic</td>
<td>Helps build writers writing skills</td>
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<td>The writer compares various pieces of information on a topic and then presents a cumulative overview of the findings</td>
<td>The writer hones their writing skills by presenting their thoughts in a logical and coherent manner</td>
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<td>Different flavors of Research Papers Include but are not limited to: compare and contrast, argumentative, analytical, cause and effect, and subject-bases. The last is the most common. A subject or topic is chosen and then that topic is researched and written about.</td>
<td>Different flavors of Essays include but are not limited to: academic, narrative, and philosophical. The academic essay is common at the collegiate level. This type of essay commonly includes a literature review. The literature review is an evaluation of information that is read. It should describe, summarize, evaluate and clarify the chosen piece.</td>
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<td>After researching a topic thoroughly, the writer compiles and evaluates the information. The writer then restructures and presents the topic from their point of view, incorporating citations from complied research to back up their analysis.</td>
<td>In an essay the writer puts their thoughts on paper. Thought is given to the purpose of the writing and what type of essay it is. The perspective audience is also considered. The writing should be well-organized, coherent and supported by appropriate facts and examples.</td>
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