

## PS 101

### Research Paper Guidelines and Format

Your research paper should (1) include a firm thesis or research question and (2) employ systematic supporting argument, evidence, and analysis. **You are not writing an opinion piece and you are not blogging.**

You may use either the Chicago/Turabian or MLA format for footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography. **Your bibliography should be drawn primarily from cases and scholarly works such as journals, law review articles, and treatises, not from journalistic or non-academic online resources.** I encourage review of Howard Becker's *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article* (Uni. of Chicago Press.)

**Format:** Your paper should be 8 - 12 pages double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins all around. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an email asking you to reformat and resubmit your paper.

You must properly attribute citations to the work of other authors. To do so, list the author's last name and the page from which you are citing in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Use quotation marks for direct quotes. Please use quotes sparingly; rely principally on your own words. Quotations of more than two lines should be indented 1 inch on the left and right and single-spaced. For example:

**Quote:** "Several recent studies confirm the idea that women are more likely to vote for women candidates than are men" (Author's Last Name, page #).

**Non-Quote:** Prior research supports the long held notion that women are more likely than men to vote for women candidates (Author's Last Name, page #).

Avoid using passive voice; the subject should be performing the action.

**Example of Passive:** Candidate image is often considered by voters.

**Revised non-passive:** Voters often consider candidate image.

I encourage you to write more than one draft, and expect you to proofread your final paper carefully.