Mrs. Hutchinson’s Research Paper Boot Camp

1. You absolutely must begin with a thesis statement. The thesis statement is what you are trying to prove in your paper. It is without a doubt the most important part of the paper. Everything else in your paper should relate to your thesis statement and you should be able to explain how it relates to your thesis statement. The thesis statement can have more than one part; this will actually help with organization if it has several subtopics.

Write your thesis statement here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Identify your major subtopics (try for at least three)

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1. The facts that you collect from your sources should be facts that support a subtopic of your thesis statement.

List at least six facts from your note cards that support subtopic I. After you write the fact, look at the source card that corresponds to it and write the first word from the citation in parentheses. Add a page number if applicable. Be sure to put direct quotes in quotation marks.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

List at least five facts from your note cards that support subtopic II. After you write the fact, look at the source card that corresponds to it and write the first word from the citation in parentheses. Add a page number if applicable. Be sure to put direct quotes in quotation marks.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

List at least five facts from your note cards that support subtopic III. After you write the fact, look at the source card that corresponds to it and write the first word from the citation in parentheses. Add a page number if applicable. Be sure to put direct quotes in quotation marks.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

3. Check your facts and see if they can be further divided into sub categories. Most likely, some of them will need to be split up. This is a good thing. This means more paragraphs for your paper. Go ahead and decide on some further divisions. For example, if your thesis statement is “Preterm births have significant effects on both parents and the children themselves because an early birth can lead to significant health problems and require special care and treatments that normal infants do not require,” then you have two major subtopics: health problems and special care and treatments. Special care and treatments can then be divided into physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

1. For each division, you will need to write a topic sentence. Each one of these topic sentences will be the first sentence of a paragraph in your research paper. The topic sentence should show some relationship to your thesis. For our example, a topic sentence regarding physical therapy might read: “Because of the physical disorders preterm babies are prone to get, they often require extensive physical therapy, which can have a significant effect on the family. “ This should come from your own brain, so it does not require a citation. Write your topic sentences here:
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Now for the body of each support paragraph. Each body paragraph should contain the following, in this order, if possible:
   1. Topic sentence
   2. Lead in to fact from source
   3. Fact from source (followed by documentation)
   4. Analysis/commentary of fact (how this fact relates to either your thesis statement or topic sentence)
   5. Transition and/or lead-in to second fact from source
   6. Second fact from source
   7. Analysis/commentary of second fact (how this fact relates to either your thesis statement or topic sentence)
   8. Concluding sentence (restating topic sentence)

Here is an example of a body paragraph with all of these parts:

Because of the physical disorders preterm babies are prone to get, they often require extensive physical therapy, which can have a significant effect on the family. Fortunately, physical therapy is a treatment that can help children who have disorders caused by premature birth. Physical therapy for cerebral palsy is needed for “gross motor skills to foster the ability to stand, walk, and run” (Linden 460). Overcoming the limits of cerebral palsy is very difficult, but with extensive physical therapy, a child can lead a semi-normal life. Unfortunately, the time that must be put into physical therapy can place a strain on the child and the parents. Studies show that 70% of children with CP have one parent who does not work, due to the amount of time spent helping with physical therapy (Hutchinson 27). This is quite a large percentage, especially considering the lost wages for parents who have to pay out of pocket for the therapy. While physical therapy unquestionably helps the child, it can cause significant difficulties financially.

Choose one of your topics sentences and two facts that go along with that topic, and write a body paragraph of your own.

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1. Finally, you need to put all of these pieces together, along with some others. Your paper should begin with an introduction that leads up to your thesis statement, which should be the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. Then you put all of your body paragraphs together, adding transition sentences where needed. After your final body paragraph, add a conclusion. Your conclusion should begin with a restatement of your thesis, but not in the exact same words. Basically, you need to paraphrase yourself. Then you want to end with a statement that makes an impact on the reader and shows the global significance of your topic.