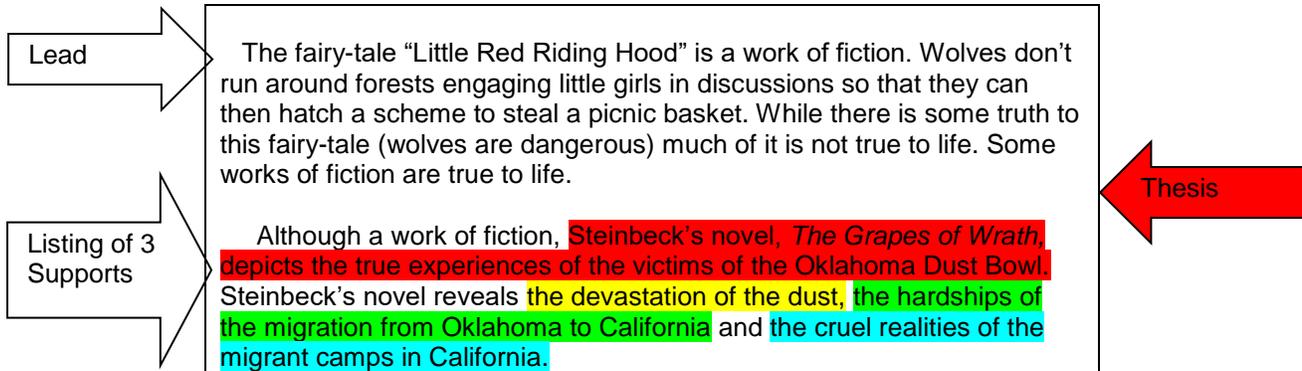


Thesis-Based Research Paper Overview

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The True Experience of the Joads Spring Research Paper

Opening: *This can be one or more paragraphs. A writer's goal here is to introduce the reader to the topic and focus of the paper. A compelling lead can tell a story or ask a question. A writer can also share some of her/his research process – letting readers learn how the writer came to write about this topic.*

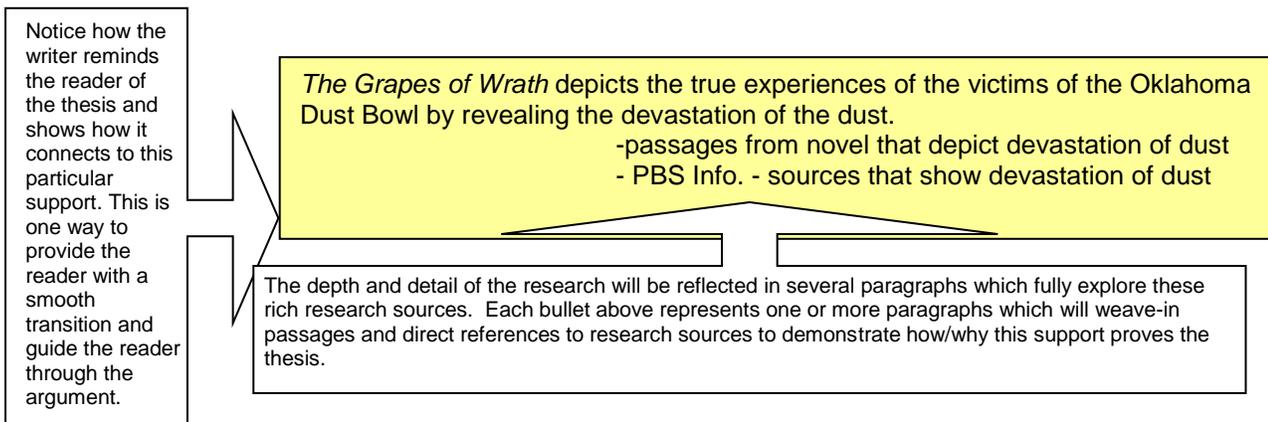


Supports:

A research paper can have any number of supports although three supports are traditional. Supports can include images and charts. Supports should be rich in detail and include passages from research sources. This is where the writer gets to share interesting things he/she discovered in his/her research process.

When a writer crafts supporting paragraphs, he/she should be focused on the reader. The goal is to guide the reader through the argument. Writers need to help readers understand each new idea and see how one idea leads to the next and how these ideas support the thesis.

Support # 1 (the devastation of the dust)



Support # 2 (the hardships of the migration from Oklahoma to California)

Do you have to repeat the thesis exactly word for word to provide the reader with a smooth transition? No. Sometimes, this can have a positive effect. Sometimes it can be boring. This is a choice the writer must make.

The Grapes of Wrath depicts the true experiences of the victims of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by revealing the hardships of the migration from Oklahoma to California.

- passages from novel that reveal hardships of migration to California
- Library of Congress Info.- sources that show migration hardships

The depth and detail of the research will be reflected in several paragraphs which fully explore these rich research sources. Each bullet above represents one or more paragraphs which will weave-in passages and direct references to research sources to demonstrate how/why this support proves the thesis.

Support # 3 (the cruel realities of the migrant camps in California)

This paper has three supports but that's not a hard and fast rule. Your paper could have more.

The Grapes of Wrath depicts the true experiences of the victims of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by revealing the cruel realities of the migrant camps in California.

- passages from novel that reveal cruel realities of migrant camps
- NewsReel Info.- sources that show cruel realities of migrant camps

The depth and detail of the research will be reflected in several paragraphs which fully explore these rich research sources. Each bullet above represents one or more paragraphs which will weave-in passages and direct references to research sources to demonstrate how/why this support proves the thesis.

Conclusion – What makes an effective conclusion? After exploring the many ways the writer has supported an argument, the writer offers some final thoughts to sum everything up for the reader. Writers have some options here. A writer could restate a thesis, echo some elements of the lead or end with a personal thought related to the argument. The conclusion could be one paragraph. It could be more. It's up to the writer. In the example below, the writer chose to end with a restatement of the thesis and a final personal thought.

The true experiences of the victims of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl are depicted in Steinbeck's novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*. While compelling, the facts of the dust bowl don't reach readers on a personal and intimate level in the way that the fictional story of the Joads does.

Re-Stated Thesis