RESEARCH PAPER 101

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CREATE A SCAFFOLD

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ABBCC?

- Typical Research paper
A – Argument
B – Background
B – Body
C – Counterarguments
C - Conclusion
Argument

- Introduction
- Ends with thesis
- 1-2 sentence description of main point of paper
Argument

- State it as an assertion.
- You take a position on some issue.
- Use action verb or "should" or "ought"

- Government should enact laws that make community college free.
#2 Background

- Provide readers with context.
- Short history
- Different schools of thought
- Introduce any unusual terms
- If highly controversial, discuss reasons for the controversy.
Most of your paper

Provide evidence why your thesis is correct

Show evidence in logical order.
  - Chronologically
  - Least controversial to most controversial
  - Keep audience in mind.
Counterarguments

- Acknowledge them.
- Refute each one.
Conclusion

- Summarize thesis and arguments.
- Do not introduce new information.
- Pose a *rhetorical* question.