

Guidelines for Composition of the Masters Research Paper – 1 Year MA Program

The following is intended to serve as a general guide for writing the research paper for the on-year Master's degree in Anthropology at Memorial University. These are guidelines rather than a set of rules, and you are reminded that you must meet with your supervisor on a regular basis for more specific instructions about the research paper (i.e. regarding thematic content).

- The papers are supposed to be of a publishable quality. This means that they must be thoroughly edited before being handed in for consideration. As a rule of thumb, professional anthropologists normally edit their own papers five or six times before they even think about sending them off to journals for consideration as publication. They also normally have several colleagues read the paper as part of this editing process. They also normally have several colleagues read the paper as part of this editing process. The papers will be judged on both form and content and as such the student is responsible for ensuring that a high level of literacy is maintained throughout the paper.
- The paper must follow standard anthropological conventions in relation to references cited, textual citations, and the use of footnotes or endnotes. If the student does not know what the standard conventions are, then he or she should follow the style set out in the journal *American Anthropologists*.
- The paper will normally be between 25-30 double-spaced pages in length (text only, this does not include endnotes or references cited).
- This is a research paper and, in general, the student should use a minimum of 20-30 professional quality scholarly sources (primarily books and/or peer-reviewed articles). Only sources that have actually been used (i.e. directly quoted or referenced for specific ideas or information) in the text itself may appear in the reference cited section and therefore count as 'sources'.