

5. Organize your Research

Research Paper Outline

1. Introduction—Introduce thesis, and the basic beliefs that characterize your perspective on how the diversity of life on earth came to be what it is today.
2. Additional Information/Explanation. More fully explain the basic beliefs and perspective. Cite sources from (#1 Informational Sources)
3. Scientific Support—Scientists probably have multiple methods. You should devote a paragraph to each way they use to determine each category. (Ex: *One paragraph on C-14 dating, one paragraph on index fossil dating*)
 - a. Scientific Process for determining the age of the earth
 - b. Scientific Process for explaining rock strata and location of fossils
 - c. Scientific Process for explaining natural selection (some beliefs may use scientific processes to disprove natural selection/evolution, so this section would consist of scientific arguments and studies against natural selection)
4. Religious/Philosophical/Logical Arguments. Many times these arguments make references to dating systems, or other ideas that have already been discussed above. (This section may not apply to the research paper, depending on the student's sources used.)
5. Conclusion—Restate the position (thesis) of your research paper, and briefly summarize the strongest points from your research paper.