TYPICAL PLANS FOR A RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper needs a good plan. A disorganized text might confuse and frustrate your professor and result in a low grade for you. While a standard plan for a research paper does exist, it is not the only plan that you might want to follow. The plan you choose depends on the type of research paper you are writing and on the thesis upon which you base your argument. Below are several plans that might serve you, depending on the form of your assignment.

ARGUMENT:
- Agreement/opposition
- For/against
- Support/contradiction
- Example: Anglophone parents who want their children to become fluent in French can choose between French immersion schools and French language schools, but the latter is the preferred system for several reasons.

CAUSE AND EFFECT:
- Reason/result
- Rationale/consequence
- Source/outcome
Example: The Treaty of Versailles, which ended the First World War, had devastating consequences for Germany.

*TYPICAL RESEARCH PLAN*
- Introduction
- Review of literature
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Summary

French Language Schools better than French Immersion
- Language Strengths & weaknesses
- Immersion Strengths & weaknesses

Effects of Versaille Treaty
- Social
- Economic
- Political
Comparing French Immersion and French Language Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed of Learning</th>
<th>Cultural Learning</th>
<th>Depth of Learning</th>
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<td>Immersion Language</td>
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**COMPARISON-CONTRAST:**
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Pros and cons
- Strengths and weaknesses

Example: Anglophone parents who want their children to become fluent in French can choose between French immersion schools and French language schools; both have strengths and weaknesses for speed of learning, cultural learning, and depth of learning.

Steps/stages:

**STEPS/STAGES**
- Course of action
- Method
- Procedure
- Process
- Technique
- Transitional phrases: Step 1, step 2...; First, second, third...; In the first place; In addition; As well; Moreover; Finally

Example: The process of digestion changes the things we eat from their natural state into nutrients that maintain our body’s health.

**NARRATIVE:**
- Account
- Chronicle
- Legend
- Story

Example: South Africa’s path from apartheid to democracy was fraught with danger and intrigue, but the story illustrates what can be accomplished with courage, trust, and hope.

Remember: the plan for your paper can mean the difference between a C and an A. Take the time to plan and aim for an A!