

SUGGESTIONS FOR TERM PAPER CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

A basic paper should include at least the following information:

I. Description

Progress in an organized manner from overall characteristics of the exterior (such as size, shape, materials, etc.) to details (window moldings, doors, gingerbread, chimneys, etc.). Do the same for the interior, from number and arrangement of rooms to details such as fireplaces and light fixtures.

Include a discussion of the current state of the structure (what is broken, missing, or covered with asbestos shingles, for example), as well as what you can surmise with some certainty was the original state (wooden shingles you can see under the aluminum siding, and so on). In graduate student papers, archival research will be used to help clarify additions and changes made to your building; you may want to discuss different periods or phases in your building's history sequentially in this part of the paper.

II. Visual analysis

Discuss massing (the different shapes which make up the building and how they fit together), proportions, the relationship of the structure to the decoration, importance of the materials chosen and how they were handled, the relationship between the building and its environment, the psychological characteristics and impact of the structure.

III. Attribution of style

Attribute your paper to a particular style. Explain why you have chosen this style, utilizing details of the structure and decoration. Include a discussion of particular elements in your building which are typical and atypical of the style in which the building is built. This will blend into the next portion of the paper:

III. Comparisons

Use these to elaborate on and prove your points. Examples of things you might want to assert are:

--Your building is typical (or atypical) of its style.

- Your building displays a particular local type of its style.
- You offer a proposed date for your structure.
- You offer an idea of the original form/color scheme/decoration of your building.

IV. Suggestions for restoration

You can suggest structural and decorative changes, as well as adaptive reuse.

V. Conclusions

These might include a summing up of the research, an evaluation of the place of the building in its style, and information that the building can give us about architecture in the community.

Be sure to use proper term paper form in writing and in citing illustrations and references. A good guide to correct usage is Sylvan Barnet, *Writing About Art*, 2nd edition. Other acceptable forms may be found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago, 2007), and *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition (Chicago, 2010, also available online). Examples of undergraduate and graduate papers are posted on my web page.

CALENDAR OF DUE DATES: ALL ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

SEPTEMBER 30: TERM PROJECT SUBJECT APPROVED

NOVEMBER 4: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE (minimum 6 entries for undergraduates, 9 for graduates)

DECEMBER 2: TERM PROJECT DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

Each of the first two items will be given a grade; these will factor into the final grade for the course.