**Resource Guide for IR Theory Course Research Paper**

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This is a resource guide for a course assignment for an undergraduate International Theory course. The assignment instructs students to write a concise research paper where the minimum page limit is ten, including references. The prompt for the resources guide is shared below to facilitate advancing meaningful writing assignments for undergraduate political science students. Thank you so much!

Now we have the topic of your paper; congratulations! This is a huge first step. Let’s do further analysis.

1. What is your central argument/thesis?
2. Why do you care about your topic?
3. How will you analyze and present your findings/research?
4. Are there limitations/shortcomings of your study?
5. If you have more resources (time/funding/collaborators), what further research would you like to do?
6. Summarize your findings in your last section (concluding remarks/conclusion/future works)
7. What are your recommendations through your research?

Let’s structure our paper. This is fun and exciting. Yes, we can do this! I believe in us. All right, let’s go!

**Title/Topic/Heading of your paper**

Author Name, Affiliation, Institution, email (A dedicated cover page is excellent, if not, no problem, it’s all good 😊)

**I. Introduction**

1st Paragraph: Be specific, state your question, and discuss the social issue and current condition. For example, use this: (Issue 🡪 Involved parties (nation-states, communities, international organizations) 🡪 timeline (period)

2nd Paragraph: Now concisely inform the readers about the significance of your topic/question (why should your readers care and invest their time to read your paper?).

3rd Paragraph: Provide a brief outline of your paper; what will you do here? What do the following sections of your paper focus on?

**II. Historical Background** (reframe/rephrase this title as you see best suitable to your topic)

What happened? Who were/are involved? How the situation escalated? How they impacted the community, policymakers, and elected officials (spread this section to 2~6 paragraphs)

**Reference, reference, reference** (cite sources, local/international newspapers, policy reports, journal papers, books, interviews).

Show the readers you care; you did your investigative research, worked hard for this issue, and this matters to you!!

**III. Theoretical Framework**

(with some examples from the textbooks) (McGlinchey, 2022; True & Devetak, 2022)

These examples could motivate you to rethink and reselect your research paper topic ( if it does happen, please reupload your topic! we are flexible and adaptive!) 😊

* Realists’ Responses to the Rise of China (Devetak and True Chapter 2)
* Liberals’ Responses to the US and Iraq Situation (Devetak and True Chapter 3)
* Liberal Economic Thinking: Health Crises vs. Economic Sovereignty (Devetak & True Ch. 3)
* Postcolonial IR: Tricontinental Conference (1966), The Suez Crisis (Hobson & Sajed, 2017; Pham & Shillam, 2016; Salem & Sirgany, 2021) (Devetak and True Chapter 4)
* Postcolonialism, feminism, and the United Nations (Chapter Seven, McGlinchey 22)
* Colonialism and Indigenous Community Nations (Chapter Three, McGlinchey 22)
* Wiki-leaks: Post-Truth Politics and Critical Theory (Devetak and True Chapter 7)
* Green Theory in IR: The Transition Network (Devetak and True Chapter 12)
* Green Theory and AI: The Politics of Environmentalism (Devetak and True Chapter 12) (Dauvergne, 2021)

Give an overview of the likely theoretical framework for your inquiry. What do the IR theorists say about your selected topic? How was the theoretical lens utilized to capture the issue? Include a review of the broader literature on your topic. Describe how you plan to respond to the inquiry. (3~ 7 paragraphs are good!). Connect your readers to the next section.

**IV. Level of Analysis**

Explain the importance of the four levels of Analysis in IR and for your topic (Chapter Five, McGlinchey 22). Apply the LOA to your selected parties (for example, China and Taiwan, India and Pakistan, Malaysia and Singapore).

This is the **HEART** of the research paper. Be very purposeful and precise with your analysis. Provide specific examples of events, timeline, aftermath, and present scenario. Do not worry if you **cannot do all four levels of analysis**, provide a brief theoretical introduction of all four levels. Then if you want to do one or multiple, it is entirely your choice. This is all **YOU**; be informative and focused and stay on track. ( 5+ -ish paragraphs are excellent 😊)

**V. Recommendations of the Current Study**

Offer your readers informed recommendations from your research. What did you see? What can we do? What can the policymakers do? ( Brief 1 or 2 paragraphs are good)

**VI. Limitations of the Current Study**

Time, resource constraints, and further analysis ( a brief paragraph states the current study’s limitations). No study is perfect; there are always scopes and opportunities to improve and do better than before. (1 or 2 brief reflective paragraphs are excellent here!)

**VII. Concluding Remarks or Conclusion and Future Works**

Share your main point of the research AGAIN, please! What motivated you to conduct this research? What did you find interesting and meaningful through your research? Summarize your main point and findings. Discuss and engage with your readers by sharing the future potential of your excellent work in this paper!

Yes, we are done with our research paper! Excellent I am genuinely so PROUD of us. Okay, wait, we need to format our paper (Times New Roman 12 pt., Align-Left, 1.5 spacing).

Wait, please wait, let’s do a final check-up. Does my paper look okay? Are the paragraphs, headings, and sub-headings look okay? Yes, it’s good. Let’s GO!

Now, upload it to Canvas. Congratulations, excellent work indeed! Let’s do a final check-up. Can I see my own submitted paper on Canvas? Yes, I can see my research paper. So cool 😊

**Works Cited:**

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