

Texas Lodge of Research

Notice of Intention to Submit Research Paper

Name: _____

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Email: _____

TLR Member: ___ Yes ___ No

Past Master: ___ Yes ___ No

If you answered yes as Past Master please provide name/number of lodge where you were Past Master.

Current Lodge Name: _____ No. _____

Current Masonic Office: _____

Research Paper Information

This brief form must be completed by authors in order to better understand the expectations of the editorial committee who will review papers proposed for full membership in TLR. It is also designed to assist authors in research, writing, and the presentation of ideas.

“What is an appropriate topic?” is a frequent question that many authors ask. Your topic must add to the general body of knowledge of Freemasonry. Some of the common topics that writers have chosen include lodge histories, biographies of prominent Masons, analyses of the Masonic working tools and symbols, and the influence of Freemasonry on a historical event. In the space below, please describe the subject, or topic, of your paper.

Subject: _____

Thesis Statement: (For those authors unfamiliar with this term, a thesis is the specific argument about a topic, or subject, you will defend in your paper. It is not a factual, indisputable statement. Usually, a thesis is a sentence that describes the main point, or argument, that you wish to make in your paper. The body of the paper will then prove and defend this assertion. In fact, all subsequent research and secondary arguments of the paper will support this thesis and those that do not are considered irrelevant.

So what is an example of a thesis? Again, a thesis is not simply a statement of fact that is indisputable, such as a sentence: "Smallville Lodge no. 123 began in 1854." Such a statement is simply not the basis for an argument and poses no point of view, or assertion. A thesis statement is not an outline of your paper or a description of method, such as "Using the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Albert Mackey as evidence, this paper will analyze the origins of working tools in Masonic lodges." Such a statement merely describes the subject matter of the paper and does not articulate an argument. Rather, the thesis statement is an original, reasoned statement created by you that reflects **your interpretation** of the material you have researched. For example, "From its organization in 1854 to present, Smallville Lodge No. 123 has exemplified a prominent position in the cultural activity of the community and influenced the positive course of progress for Brushy County, Texas. This thesis statement provides an argument that the paper will follow. Creating a thesis statement, or even knowing what a thesis statement is, remains one of the most demanding challenges for most students when writing a paper.) Please detail your thesis in the space below.

Summary: (Please include a paragraph for the committee that summarizes your ideas on the topic you have selected.)

Bibliography: (Great papers are well-researched and include a variety of sources. Detail your preliminary bibliography, or list of works consulted below.)

Form and Style Manual: (Affirm in the space below that you have read and acknowledge the Form and Style Manual)

____ Yes ____ No

Projected Submission Date: _____

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