

JP Orientation

Purpose, Requirements, and Deadlines

The Junior Paper is a significant piece of writing and analysis, intended to develop your ability to produce a sustained, rigorous, and original reading of a particular text. Most often, the Junior Paper analyzes a single text (literary, philosophical, theoretical, etc.) with respect to an issue related to your Fundamentals Question. You should expect to write a paper of about 22-25 pages. Because you are asked to engage with your own question and your own thoughts, it is not necessary or even encouraged to use secondary literature on your text or on the issue, lest you run the risk of turning your paper into a series of book reviews; but if you do use additional sources you should cite them in full. The Junior Paper is important not only as a milestone in your completion of the Fundamentals degree program; it may also serve as a writing sample for applications to graduate programs, scholarships, or professional opportunities. Be ready to put a lot of work into the paper; this work will pay dividends.

Structure

The paper is typically written in the Winter Quarter of your third year. The Autumn Quarter is also when you will determine your text, topic, and JP Adviser. Your JP Adviser will typically be the professor who taught the text you have selected for your paper; they do not need to be your Fundamentals Adviser. This professor will be closely involved with the process, helping you formulate your ideas in conversation, providing feedback on your rough drafts, and evaluating your work at the end of the process. It is no small time commitment, so make sure the professor is aware of this before signing on!

To provide you with additional structure, we will have JP Seminar over the course of the Winter Quarter. Sign up for this seminar under the course number FNDL 29901. Your paper will be graded pass/fail, with recommendations for honors if the essay is of exceptional quality. You are strongly encouraged to meet with your adviser after the final JP has been submitted (or communicate by email) and hear their feedback.

Timeline

The Junior Paper is intended to be an intellectual and not a bureaucratic exercise; the important thing is that you write a good paper!

It is likely that this paper will be two to three times longer than any previous paper you have written at the University of Chicago, and this is a fact you need to take seriously. Writing a piece of this length takes preparation, planning, and a sense of strategy. It is always useful to create an outline, which you can amend as needed as you write the paper. We advise you to approach it by dividing your thesis into two or three distinct sections, each of which analyzes a significant component of your thesis or focuses on one of the major relevant sections of your text (e.g., sections comparing Characters A, B, and C, or analyzing Parts 1, 2, and 3). To facilitate your planning, we have compiled the various dates and deadlines of the Junior Paper process. Please make a note of what you need to do and when.

Autumn Quarter: Preparation & JP Proposal

- Around **Week 4**, we will have an orientation meeting where we go over this document and address your questions. After this meeting, you should dedicate significant time to determining your text, topic, and JP Adviser. Make plans to approach your JP Adviser to confirm they'd be willing to work with you and advise your paper.
- While making your course selections for the Winter quarter, sign up for FNDL 29901.
- By Friday of **Week 10**, you must submit your JP Proposal and the JP Advising Form by uploading them on Canvas. The proposal consists of a one-page statement that details your selected text, paper topic, and how this project relates to your Fundamentals question, with an approximation of the thesis you plan to argue. Have your JP Adviser read this statement and then sign the JP Advising Form, available on the homepage of Fundamentals.

Winter Quarter: Writing and Submission

- Make sure you are enrolled in the JP seminar, FNDL 29901.
- **Week 1:** JP Seminars begin. These meetings function as research and writing workshops, providing you with structure in the writing process. They offer a space to test and develop your ideas, rehearse close readings, and workshop sections of your paper.
- **Monday, Week 7:** First draft due. Submit your complete first draft of your JP to the Coordinator and your JP Adviser. This will allow you time to consult with your JP Adviser and make any necessary revisions before the finished paper is due.
- **Tuesday, Week 10:** Final draft due. the Junior Paper Adviser and the Fundamentals Program Coordinator at the **end of the Reading Period**. When submitting the final draft to the Junior Paper Adviser, a copy of the **JP Evaluation Form** should also be included.

Spring Quarter: Next Steps

- Congratulations! You're done! Please use this quarter to schedule meetings with your JP Adviser and JP Colloquium Coordinator to discuss your work and brainstorm ways it can lead to or evolve into future projects.

Summary

Autumn Quarter	Week 4: Attend JP orientation Week 6: Establish your text, topic, and advisor Week 10: Submit completed JP proposal
Winter Quarter	Week 1: FNDL 29901 JP Seminar begins (ensure registration) Week 7: First draft of the JP is due to the adviser and program coordinator Week 10: Final draft of the JP is due to the adviser and program coordinator