

Research Paper Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Minimal/Unacceptable	Score
Content 40 points possible	1. The thesis is a clear, concise statement of the paper's argument.	1. The paper contains a thesis, but it is not clearly articulated.	1. There does not appear to be a thesis.	
	2. The thesis makes a reasonable claim.	2. The thesis makes a mostly reasonable claim.	2. If there is a thesis, it makes an unreasonable claim.	
	3. The body of the paper supports the thesis.	3. The body of the paper supports the thesis for the most part.	3. The body of the paper does not support the thesis.	
	4. All data included in the paper is shown to be relevant to the thesis.	4. Most of the paper's data is shown to be relevant to the thesis.	4. The data in the paper is not relevant to the thesis.	
	40-36 points	35.9-28 points	27.9 or less	
Research 30 points possible	1. The paper's content draws upon appropriate scholarly sources, both primary and secondary.	1. The paper's content draws mostly upon appropriate scholarly sources, both primary and secondary.	1. The paper's content does not draw upon appropriate scholarly sources, both primary and secondary.	
	2. The paper's content demonstrates a critical understanding of the sources.	2. The paper's content demonstrates a critical understanding of the sources for the most part.	2. The paper's content demonstrates a critical misunderstanding of the sources.	
	3. The paper effectively incorporates material from the sources to provide evidence and support for the thesis.	3. The paper's use of material from sources contributes to the thesis for the most part.	3. The paper's use of material from sources does not contribute to the thesis.	
	4. The paper uses appropriate citations (or paraphrases) in the body of the paper as well as in a bibliography or works cited page.	4. For the most part, the paper uses appropriate citations (or paraphrases) in the body of the paper as well as in a bibliography or works cited page.	4. The paper tends not to cite sources correctly (or perhaps at all) in the body of the paper as well as in a bibliography or works cited page.	
	30-27 points	26.9-21 points	20.9 or less	
Writing 30 points possible	1. The overall organizational principles of the paper are clear and appropriate.	1. The overall organizational principles of the paper are mostly clear and appropriate.	1. The paper does not effectively lead readers through the subject matter.	
	2. The transitions from sentence to sentence are effective at walking readers through the content.	2. The transitions from sentence to sentence are mostly effective at walking readers through the content.	2. Little transitional material is offered sentence to sentence.	
	3. The writing is clear and graceful.	3. The writing is competent at communicating the message.	3. The writing style inhibits a full understanding of the content.	
	4. Quotations from sources are integrated gracefully.	4. Quotations from sources are integrated gracefully for the most part.	4. Quotations from sources are clumsily integrated.	
	5. The paper contains few typographical, grammatical, and punctuation errors.	5. The paper may contain some typographical, grammatical, or punctuation errors, but not enough to significantly distract the reader.	5. Typographical, grammatical, or punctuation errors are numerous enough to be distracting.	
	30-27 points	26.9-21 points	20.9 or less	
Total score				