

Core 8 Research Paper Rubric

Technical Matters – 20 pts.

- The paper must be a minimum of eight text pages, excluding title page, bibliography, and other supplementary material.
- A minimum of eight sources must be actively cited in the body of the paper.
- The writer must include page numbers.
- The writer must follow all font and margin requirements set by individual instructors.
- The paper must be double-spaced, except where The Everyday Writer indicates that other spacing is appropriate.
- Your paper must include a Bibliography/Works Cited/Notes page listing all of the sources you have used.
- Your Bibliography/Works Cited/Notes page must employ the MLA, APA or Chicago style and follow that style consistently. Your instructor will specify what style you should use.
- At least half of your sources must include scholarly resources in the form of peer-reviewed journals and books.

Total /20 pts.

Writing Quality – 40 pts.

The writer...

- Observes proper writing conventions in the form of correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, tense, word usage, and sentence structure.
- Employs a writing style appropriate to an academic paper and avoids slang and excessive informality.
- Defines key terms clearly and concisely.
- Always uses language clearly and effectively, avoiding awkward or unclear/vague phrasing.
- Employs effective transitions between ideas, paragraphs and sentences, and presents facts and arguments in a logical order.
- Puts the bulk of the paper in his/her own words, quoting verbatim from other sources when he/she feels that another author's words capture an idea so well that a direct quote is necessary.
- Uses an appropriate paper title that connects well with the central argument.

Total /40 pts.

Organization and Argumentation – 40 pts.

The paper...

- Contains a clear introductory paragraph that draws the reader in, clearly states the thesis or argument being made in the paper, includes a summary of the evidence for this argument, and outlines the organization of the various parts of the paper, telling briefly how they tie in with the central thesis.
- Demonstrates understanding on the part of the writer of the difference between a research-based thesis on the one hand, and either opinion or mere statement of fact on the other.
- Has a thesis that is clearly developed and supported throughout the paper.
- Consists throughout of a logical presentation of the evidence for the author's argument.
- Follows a logical organizational strategy.
- Explores and answers potential counterarguments
- Demonstrates critical thinking about, or analysis of, the ideas the thesis raises, on the part of the writer.
- Limits focus to only those arguments that help the writer and the reader understand the central thesis.
- Contains a concluding paragraph that revisits the central thesis and the evidence for it, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of all concluding ideas.

Total /40 pts.

Total /100 pts.