

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Core 8 Research Paper Rubric

#### Technical Matters – 10 pts.

- The paper must be a minimum of eight text pages, in addition to the bibliography and any other supplementary material/pages your instructor requires.
- A minimum of eight sources must be actively cited in the body of the paper.
- At least six of your eight required sources must include peer-reviewed journal articles, books, magazine articles and/or newspaper articles.
- The writer must follow all font, margin, page numbering/word count and other technical 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 or Works Cited page listing all of the sources you have used.
- Your Bibliography or Works Cited page must employ the MLA, APA or Chicago style and follow that style consistently. Your instructor may specify what style you should use.

Total

/10 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 – 50 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 focused.
- Consists throughout of a logical presentation of the evidence for the author's argument
- 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

/50 pts.

**Total**

/100 pts.