

GRADING RUBRIC FOR A RESEARCH PAPER

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1	
Introduction/ Thesis	<p>Exceptional introduction that grabs interest of reader and states topic.</p> <p>Thesis is exceptionally clear, arguable, well-developed, and a definitive statement.</p>	<p>Proficient introduction that is interesting and states topic.</p> <p>Thesis is clear and arguable statement of position.</p>	<p>Basic introduction that states topic but lacks interest.</p> <p>Thesis is somewhat clear and arguable.</p>	<p>Weak or no introduction of topic.</p> <p>Paper's purpose is unclear/thesis is weak or missing.</p>	
Quality of Information/ Evidence	<p>Paper is exceptionally researched, extremely detailed, and historically accurate.</p> <p>Information clearly relates to the thesis.</p>	<p>Information relates to the main topic.</p> <p>Paper is well-researched in detail and from a variety of sources.</p>	<p>Information relates to the main topic, few details and/or examples are given.</p> <p>Shows a limited variety of sources.</p>	<p>Information has little or nothing to do with the thesis.</p> <p>Information has weak or no connection to the thesis.</p>	
Support of Thesis/ Analysis	<p>Exceptionally critical, relevant and consistent connections made between evidence and thesis.</p> <p>Excellent analysis.</p>	<p>Consistent connections made between evidence and thesis</p> <p>Good analysis.</p>	<p>Some connections made between evidence and thesis.</p> <p>Some analysis.</p>	<p>Limited or no connections made between evidence and thesis.</p> <p>Lack of analysis.</p>	
Organization/ Development of Thesis	<p>Exceptionally clear, logical, mature, and thorough development of thesis with excellent transitions between and within paragraphs.</p>	<p>Clear and logical order that supports thesis with good transitions between and within paragraphs.</p>	<p>Somewhat clear and logical development with basic transitions between and within paragraphs.</p>	<p>Lacks development of ideas with weak or no transitions between and within paragraphs.</p>	

Conclusion	<p>Excellent summary of topic with concluding ideas that impact reader.</p> <p>Introduces no new information.</p>	<p>Good summary of topic with clear concluding ideas.</p> <p>Introduces no new information.</p>	<p>Basic summary of topic with some final concluding ideas.</p> <p>Introduces no new information.</p>	<p>Lack of summary of topic.</p>	
Style/Voice	<p>Style and voice are not only appropriate to the given audience and purpose, but also show originality and creativity.</p> <p>Word choice is specific, purposeful, dynamic and varied.</p> <p>Sentences are clear, active (subject-verb-object), and to the point.</p>	<p>Style and voice appropriate to the given audience and purpose.</p> <p>Word choice is specific and purposeful, and somewhat varied throughout.</p> <p>Sentences are mostly clear, active (SVO), and to the point.</p>	<p>Style and voice somewhat appropriate to given audience and purpose.</p> <p>Word choice is often unspecific, generic, redundant, and clichéd.</p> <p>Sentences are somewhat unclear; excessive use of passive voice.</p>	<p>Style and voice inappropriate or do not address given audience, purpose, etc.</p> <p>Word choice is excessively redundant, clichéd, and unspecific.</p> <p>Sentences are very unclear.</p>	
Grammar/ Usage/ Mechanics	<p>Control of grammar, usage, and mechanics.</p> <p>Almost entirely free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>May contain few spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors.</p>	<p>Contains several spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors which detract from the paper's readability.</p>	<p>So many spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors that the paper cannot be understood.</p>	
Citation Format	<p>Conforms to APA rules for formatting and citation of sources are perfect.</p>	<p>Conforms to APA rules for formatting and citation of sources with minor exceptions.</p>	<p>Frequent errors in APA format.</p>	<p>Lack of APA format/ numerous errors.</p>	
Works Cited/ Bibliography	<p>Entries entirely correct as to APA format.</p>	<p>Entries mostly correct as to APA format.</p>	<p>Frequent errors in APA format.</p>	<p>Lack of APA format/ numerous errors.</p>	