

Research Paper Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Introduction & Thesis Statement _____/20	The introduction includes an effective hook, begins broad and transitions seamlessly to the thesis statement. The thesis statement states an arguable opinion about the topic.	The introduction includes a hook, starts broad and transitions to the thesis statement, which states an arguable opinion about the topic	One element of an introduction is missing (hook, narrowing to thesis, strong or arguable thesis.)
Body Paragraphs, Sentence Structure, & Organization _____/50	Examples and support are organized in a logical order. Each body paragraph has a well-written topic sentence, strong verbs, effective transitions, varied openers, and support that connects to the thesis.	Examples and support are provided in a reasonable order. Body paragraphs provide a topic sentence that supports the thesis. Transitions exist between paragraphs. Paragraphs mostly contain intentional verbs and sentence structure	Support details or examples are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem confusing. Many weak topic sentences, verb choices and/ or sentence structures.
Support _____/30	Ideas are clear, complete, and unique, along with being supported by details rather than generalities. Appropriate evidence is used where necessary. Excellently integrated evidence is provided for each assertion, wise choices are made with choices to quote/ paraphrase/ or summarize. Varied sources throughout paragraphs/essay	Ideas are generally clear, although a few areas may need clarification. Claims and arguments are supported with appropriate evidence. Integrated evidence is provided for each assertion, wise choices are made with choices to quote/ paraphrase/ or summarize. At times same source used too frequently	Ideas are insufficient or lack support, details and/or example (generalizations). May lack evidence and support. Overly reliant on particular source(s).
Refutation _____/30	Refutation addresses the complexity of the issue with careful attention given to the most critical argument against the thesis	Refutation addresses the complexity of the issue and refutation present but may be confusing or loosely argued by lacking support.	The refutation is missing or does not effectively support the argument.
Conclusion _____/20	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. An effective restatement of the thesis is included.	The conclusion is recognizable and understandable. The author's thesis is restated.	The conclusion is either not recognizable or understandable. The author's thesis may or may not be restated within the closing paragraph.
Conventions _____/20	Author makes virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Author choose strong, appropriate diction/syntax	Author makes few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Author used appropriate diction/syntax.	Author makes some errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Poor or informal diction/syntax.
MLA _____/15	Document formatting, in-text citations, and Works Cited page follow MLA guidelines and contain no errors.	A few errors in MLA formatting, but they do not distract from the content.	Several errors in MLA formatting that distract reader from content.
Source and Page Length Requirements, Folder _____/15	Required 6 sources used (2 books) Meets page requirement All items present and ordered properly in folder	Required 6 sources used (2 books) Meets page requirement All items present but not properly ordered in folder	Does not include minimum required sources. Does not meet page requirement Folder missing items and/or improperly ordered

Total: _____/200