

Research Paper Rubric

Student Name: _____

Draft # _____

	Thesis	Organization	Evidence	Presentation	Knowledge
Exceeds Expectations 8-10 points	-Contains a complex thesis that takes an arguable position -Location in the introduction -Connects every paragraph to the thesis -Restates thesis (in new language) in the conclusion	-Has introduction and conclusion paragraphs -Has distinct paragraphs, each with a different main idea and topic sentence -Makes transitions between and within paragraphs -Presents a clear argument -Has properly formatted (MLA) Works Cited page	-Collects and presents highly specific, relevant and accurate evidence from appropriate sources -Supports main idea of each body paragraph with insightful evidence -Skillfully cites quotes and paraphrases -Skillfully introduces and discusses quotations	-Typed and neatly presented -Shows awareness of audience -Shows mastery of spelling and grammar -Uses own words, style and creativity -Uses varied sentence structure and new vocabulary -Uses formal language	-Demonstrates complex knowledge about the topic -Makes larger connections
Meets Expectations 5-7 points	-Contains a thesis that takes a clear position -Location in the introduction -Connects every paragraph to the thesis -Restates thesis (in new language) in the conclusion	-Has introduction and conclusion paragraphs -Has distinct paragraphs, each with a different main idea and topic sentence -Makes transitions -Presents an argument -Works Cited page is mostly correct	-Collects and presents specific, relevant and accurate evidence from appropriate sources -Supports main idea of each body paragraph with evidence -Properly cites quotations and paraphrases Properly introduces and discusses quotations	-Typed and neatly presented -Shows awareness of audience -Few spelling mistakes -Few grammatical mistakes -Uses own words, with some style and creativity -Uses varied sentence structure and new vocabulary -Uses mostly formal language	-Demonstrates knowledge about the topic -Makes connections
Approaches Expectations 2-4 points	-Implies or understates a thesis -Makes few or superficial connections between the thesis and the paragraphs -Does not restate the thesis (in new language) in the conclusion	-Demonstrates basic paragraphs with topic sentences -Establishes brief introduction and conclusion paragraphs -Lacks clarity of argument -Demonstrates emerging control of paragraph structure -Works Cited page does not reflect MLA format	-Collects and presents simple evidence; or uses source material that lacks relevance -Offers general statements without evidence -Cites quotations, but lacks consistency in formatting -Simple discussion of quotations	-Typed -Appears sloppy -Exhibits some awareness of audience -Has some grammatical errors -Shows basic awareness of style -Has basic sentence structure and vocabulary -Uses some informal language	-Demonstrates limited knowledge of topic -Makes vague connections
Needs More 0-1 points	-Does not present a position -Lack focus and direction	-Lacks a beginning or an ending -Lacks an argument -Lacks transitions and proper paragraphing -No works cited page	-Collects and presents little or no evidence -Consists mostly of general statements without evidence -Consists mostly of evidence without commentary	-Not typed -No awareness of audience -Many spelling errors -Many grammatical mistakes -Lacks style and creativity -Uses simplistic sentence structure and vocabulary -Uses informal language	-Demonstrates no knowledge of the topic -Makes no larger connections
Points					