

Research Essay Rubric

Name/Period: _____

	Category	Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Needs Work
S T R U C T U R E	Introductory Paragraph and Thesis Statement	Introduction contains an attention grabber, background information, & a thesis statement. Thesis statement is a one-sentence “roadmap” to your argument located at the end of the introduction.	The introduction is good but is missing one element or is ineffective in one area.	There are several missing elements that limit the effectiveness of the introduction.	Numerous errors render the introduction ineffective.
	Body Paragraphs	Body paragraphs are correctly formatted and contain topic sentences that connect key point to thesis, transitions that move reader to the next paragraph, & quotes that support the argument.	Body paragraphs correctly formatted but contain minor errors that do not significantly impact the flow of the paper.	Body paragraphs are incorrectly formatted & contain errors that negatively impact the flow of the paper.	Body paragraphs have little structure; ideas do not flow; paper is difficult to follow.
	Conclusion	Conclusion restates thesis using different wording & funnels out, leaving reader with a parting suggestion/application.	Conclusion contains restated thesis & funnels out but is too brief.	Conclusion is missing an element & ending seems abrupt.	Conclusion is missing or completely ineffective.
C O N T E N T	Evidence	All evidence/data is relevant & clearly ties back to the thesis & contributes to your argument. Each body paragraph contains 1-2 carefully selected relevant quotes that are integrated into the writing.	Most of your evidence is relevant but weak in one area or not clearly tied to your thesis.	Not all evidence is relevant and/or evidence is not clearly tied to the thesis. A paragraph is missing quote.	Little if any textual evidence is given in support of the thesis.
	Warrant	Data is skillfully explained & the importance to your argument is clearly illustrated.	Data is explained & the importance to argument illustrated but lacks depth in some areas.	Explanation is cursory & does not illustrate a clear connection to the argument.	Data is dropped into the essay with little or no explanation. No clear tie to argument.
S T Y L E	Diction	Word choice is varied, precise, & powerful. Repetition is deliberate & creates emphasis. Figurative language & imagery is skillfully used to help reader follow the argument.	Word choice is varied & precise. Figurative language, repetition, &/or imagery attempted. Reader is able to follow argument.	Word choice is somewhat varied. Figurative language, repetition, & imagery are confusing. Hinder reader’s ability to follow the argument.	Word choice is limited, needlessly repetitive, & not descriptive suggesting little effort.
	Point-of-View	3 rd person is used with appropriate use of 1 st person (personal experience) strategically interwoven.	3 rd person is used correctly throughout the essay.	3 rd person is used; however, 1 st &/or 2 nd is inappropriately interspersed.	Use of 1 st &/or 2 nd person creates a ineffective tone.
	Conventions	No spelling or common grammar errors. Writing reveals careful proof-reading & use of spelling & grammar checking tools.	1-2 spelling errors &/or few grammar errors that do not detract significantly from the meaning.	Numerous spelling & grammar errors that are beginning to interfere with meaning and flow.	Numerous spelling & grammar errors interfere with understanding.
	Formatting	Paper formatted according MLA 6 th edition. Includes: a running header, a heading, a creative title, 1” margins, double spacing, a works cited page, parenthetical citations & 12 pt. Times New Roman font.	Contains 1-2 formatting errors.	Contains 3-4 formatting errors.	Contains 5+ formatting errors.