**Research Paper Rubric**

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| **Criteria** | **Unsatisfactory - Beginning** | **Developing** | **Accomplished** | **Exemplary** | **Total** |
| **Paper Focus: Purpose/ Position Statement** | **0-13 points** | **14-15 points** | **16-17 points** | **18-20 points** | /20 |
| Fails to identify a relevant topic or is not clearly defined and/or the paper lacks focus throughout. | Identifies and summarizes the topic but may be too broad in scope. Focal point is not consistently maintained throughout the paper. | Identifies and summarizes a relevant topic and a thesis that provides adequate direction for the paper with some degree of interest for the reader. The thesis states the position, premise, or hypothesis, and is the focal point of the paper for the most part. | Identifies and summarizes a relevant topic and a thesis that provides direction for the paper that is engaging and thought provoking, The thesis clearly and concisely states the position, premise, or hypothesis and is consistently the focal point throughout the paper. |
| **Analysis (Why is this theory?) /Current Projects** | **0-22 points** | **21-23 points** | **24-26 points** | **27-30 points** | /30 |
| Demonstrates a lack of understanding and inadequate analysis of the research topic. Analysis is superficial based on opinions and preferences rather than critical analysis. No projects identified, or all projects identified are applicative in nature. | Demonstrates general understanding with limited critical analysis of the research topic and thesis (argument). One project identified, or some projects identified are applicative in nature. | Demonstrates an understanding and some critical analysis of the research topic and thesis (argument). More than one project identified with all projects being theoretical in nature. | Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding and careful, critical analysis of the research topic. More than one project is identified with careful and thoughtful analysis of each project. |
| **Evidence (Sources)** | **0-22 points** | **21-23 points** | **24-26 points** | **27-30 points** | /30 |
| Lacks sufficient research sources to support the central topic and/or, if included, are generally not relevant, accurate, or reliable. Contains numerous factual mistakes, omissions, or oversimplifications. Sources, if included, are not properly referenced and cited in the paper. | Provides some evidence to support the central topic with only a few research sources. Some sources may not be relevant, accurate, and reliable and/or appropriately referenced and cited in the paper. | Provides essential, accurate evidence to support the central position with the required (5) research sources that are mostly relevant, accurate, and reliable. Sources are referenced and cited appropriately throughout the paper for the most part. | Provides compelling and accurate evidence to support in-depth the central topic beyond the required (5) research sources. Research sources are highly relevant, accurate, and reliable and add to the strength of the paper; and are effectively referenced and cited throughout the paper. |

**Research Paper Rubric (continued)**

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| **Criteria** | **Unsatisfactory - Beginning** | **Developing** | **Accomplished** | | **Exemplary** | | **Total** |
| **Organization** | **0-6 points** | **7 points** | **8 points** | | **9-10 points** | | /10 |
| Paper lacks logical organization and impedes readers’ comprehension of ideas. Central position is rarely evident from paragraph to paragraph and/or the paper is missing multiple required components. | Paper is somewhat organized, although occasionally ideas from paragraph to paragraph may not flow well and/or connect to the central position or be clear as a whole. May be missing a required component and/or components may be less than complete. | Paper is adequately organized. Ideas are arranged reasonably with a progression of thought from paragraph to paragraph connecting to the central position. | | Paper is effectively organized. Ideas are arranged logically, flow smoothly, with a strong progression of thought from paragraph to paragraph connecting to the central position. Includes all required components. | |
| **Writing Quality & Adherence to Format Guidelines** | **0-6 points** | **7 points** | **8 points** | | **9-10 points** | | /10 |
| Paper shows a below average/poor writing style lacking in elements of appropriate standard English. Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or formatting. | Paper shows an average and/or casual writing style using standard English. Some errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage, and/or formatting. | Paper shows above average writing style and clarity in writing using standard English. Minor errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or formatting. | | Paper is well written and clear. Basically free from grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, or formatting errors. | |
| **Length of Paper** | **Deduct 11 points-overall failing** | **Deduct 1-10 points** | **0 points deducted** | /--- | |
| Substantially lacks/exceeds the required length | Somewhat lacking the required length. | Paper is submitted by the deadline and meets the required length (5 pages for the body). |
| **TOTAL POINTS (sum of criteria)** | | | | | | | **/100** |