Research Paper Rubric

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|  | **(A)** | **(B)** | **(C)** | **(D)** | **(F)** |
| **Thesis** | clearly stated and appropriately focused | clearly stated but focus could have been sharper | thesis phrasing too simple, lacks complexity; or, not clearly worded | thesis lacks a clear objective and/or does not “fit” content of essay | thesis not evident |
| **Supporting Research** | thorough and relevant | less thorough but still substantial and relevant | adequate; relevance made clear | insufficient; relevance not always made clear | irrelevant, missing, or relies on assertion rather than research |
| **Focus & Content** | sharp, distinct focus; balanced, substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content; sophisticated, mature ideas are particularly well-developed | Clear focus; specific, illustrative, and balanced content | adequate focus, but unbalanced content; more analysis needed | essay contains too much research information without analysis or commentary | absence of focus and relevant content; content doesn’t “fit” thesis |
| **Organization** | obviously controlled and/or subtle organization; strong topic sentences | logical and appropriate organization; clear topic sentences | organization attempted, but unclear or inappropriate  topic sentences | inconsistent organization | absence of planned organization |
| **Style** | writer’s voice is strong; precision in tone, sentence structure, and word choice | precision and variety in sentence structure and word choice | limited, but mostly correct, sentence structure variety and word choice | several awkward and/or unclear sentences; problems with word choice | no apparent control over sentence structure and word choice |
| **Mechanics & Usage** | free of mechanical and usage errors | few mechanical and usage errors | some mechanical and usage errors, but not severe enough to interfere significantly with writer’s purpose | mechanical and usage errors which interfere with writer’s purpose | mechanical and usage errors that significantly interfere with the writer’s purpose |
| **MLA: In-Text Citations** | all sources are accurately documented in the proper MLA format | all sources are documented, but a few are not in the desired format | most sources are documented, but many are not in the desired format | several sources lack proper documentation | sources are not accurately documented, and MLA format is not attempted or followed properly |
| **MLA: Works Cited Page** | all sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format | most sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format | | few of the sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format | none the sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format |