

Research Paper Rubric

CATEGORY	Unacceptable (Below Standards)	Acceptable (Meets Standards)	Good (Occasionally Exceeds)	Excellent (Exceeds Standards)	SCORE
Introduction	Does not adequately convey topic. Does not describe subtopics to be reviewed. Lacks adequate thesis statement.	Conveys topic, but not key question(s). Describes subtopics to be reviewed. General thesis statement.	Conveys topic and key question(s). Clearly delineates subtopics to be reviewed. General thesis statement.	Strong introduction of topic's key question(s), terms. Clearly delineates subtopics to be reviewed. Specific thesis statement.	15 points _____/ 15
Sequencing	Little evidence material is logically organized into topic, subtopics or related to topic. Many transitions are unclear or nonexistent.	Most material clearly related to subtopic, main topic. Material may not be organized within subtopics. Attempts to provide variety of transitions	All material clearly related to subtopic, main topic and logically organized within subtopics. Clear, varied transitions linking subtopics, and main topic.	All material clearly related to subtopic, main topic. Strong organization and integration of material within subtopics. Strong transitions linking subtopics, and main topic.	15 points _____/ 15
Support	Few sources supporting thesis. Sources insignificant or unsubstantiated.	Sources generally acceptable but not peer-reviewed research (evidence) based.	Sources well selected to support thesis with some research in support of thesis.	Strong peer reviewed research based support for thesis.	20 points _____/ 20
Conclusion	Does not summarize evidence with respect to thesis statement. Does not discuss the impact of researched material on topic. Strong review of key conclusions.	Review of key conclusions. Some integration with thesis statement. Discusses impact of researched material on topic.	Strong integration with thesis statement. Discusses impact of researched material on topic.	Strong review of key conclusions. Strong integration with thesis statement. Insightful discussion of impact of the researched material on topic.	15 points _____/ 15
Grammar & Mechanics	Grammatical errors or spelling & punctuation substantially detract from the paper.	Very few grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors interfere with reading the paper.	Grammatical errors or spelling & punctuation are rare and do not detract from the paper.	The paper is free of grammatical errors and spelling & punctuation.	20 points _____/ 20
References	Reference and citation errors detract significantly from paper.	Two references or citations missing or incorrectly written.	One reference or citations missing or incorrectly written.	All references and citations are correctly written and present.	15 points _____/ 15

(The Psychology Department at San José State University is acknowledged for the basic structure of this form.)

Total Points: _____ / 100