

Research Paper Evaluation Rubric

Use this rubric as a guide while you revise and edit your paper.

	6	5	4	3	2	1
FOCUS	has a sophisticated thesis that is expertly weaved into the entire essay	has a clear thesis, apparent throughout the entire essay	essay has a clear thesis and remains on topic	has a thesis, but some of the essay strays off topic	evidence of a thesis, but most of the essay is off topic	has no evidence of a thesis and no focus
ORGANIZATION	essays flows smoothly so that transitions between ideas/ paragraphs are barely noticeable	essay flows smoothly from start to finish, transitions well from paragraph to paragraph	order of essay makes sense, has fairly smooth transitions	parts of essay may seem out of order or transitions are too rough	much of the essay seems out of order, illogical, very few transitions	essay has no sense of order
SUPPORT	the perfect amount of support from the text is included and integrated expertly into just the right spots	enough support from the text is given to "prove" thesis	most support from the text works to "prove" thesis	text is quoted to support thesis, but there may be too little or too much without explanation	quoted text does not support the thesis or is not explained well enough	no text quoted to support thesis
LEAD/ INTRO.	introduces something so intriguing/ intelligent the reader couldn't possibly put the essay down	pulls the reader into the piece, introduces the text and thesis	grabs the reader and introduces the text and thesis	lead is attempted, introducing the text and thesis	lead is attempted, but does little to introduce essay	too short or non-existent
CONCLUSION	writer "comes to a conclusion", leaving reader satisfied and thinking	writer "comes to a conclusion" about thesis/text, leaving reader satisfied	writer "comes to a conclusion"	restates thesis, may not "come to a conclusion"	short or superficial, just tacked on the end	too short to make a point
VOICE	word choice and writing approach create a strong, individual voice	word choice and writing approach create a defined voice	voice is "heard" but may be inconsistent	voice is being developed	essay has little voice or the voice does not fit the topic	writing is flat
CONVENTIONS	no spelling, punctuation or grammar errors	one or two convention errors	a few grade-appropriate convention errors	several convention errors	too many (10 or more) errors in conventions	essay is filled with errors