

Research Paper Rubric

Descriptor Area	Does not meet standard	Progressing towards standard	Meets Standard
Understand and Analyze Context Introduction	The paper identifies the topic of the thesis.	The paper identifies the thesis and describes the purpose and focus of the thesis.	The paper explains the topic, purpose and focus of the thesis and connects the thesis to a broader historical context.
5 points	0 1 2	3 4	5
Thesis Introduction	The introduction does not contain a clear position or historically defensible argument.	The introduction contains an argument but does not establish a line of reasoning.	The introduction contains a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
10 points	0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
Evidence usage Main Body of Paper	Evidence loosely supports thesis. May be general in nature. Evidence is presented, but is insufficient or sometimes inconsistent in supporting the paper's conclusion or understanding.	Substantiates each argument with appropriate evidence but may lack depth or breadth Conclusions are supported through the compilation of relevant and sufficient evidence.	Ample and relevant evidence provided The papers demonstrates a compelling argument through effective interpretation and synthesis of the evidence and through describing its relevance and significance.
15 points	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	13 14 15
Sound Argument Main Body of Paper	Evidences a basic understanding of topic. Limited discussion of the topics complexity. Does little to connect evidence to thesis	Good understanding but deeper connections not present. Connects most evidence to thesis. Complexity of topic is addressed but misses nuanced understanding	Deep understanding and complexity is evidenced. Nuanced aspects of topic's complexity are revealed
15 points	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	13 14 15
Conventions and Clarity Main Body of Paper	The paper's use of grammar, style and mechanics convey the student's ideas; however, errors interfere with communication	The paper's word choice and syntax adhere to established conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics. There may be	The paper's word choice and syntax enhances communication through variety, emphasis and precision.

10 points	and/or credibility.	some errors but they do not interfere with the author's meaning.	
	0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
Citations Main Body of Paper	The paper cites inappropriate sources and attributes work of others, but does so inconsistently and/or incorrectly.	The paper consistently and accurately cites appropriate sources and attributes the work of others.	The paper effectively integrates high quality sources using knowledge and ideas of others and consistently distinguishes between the students voice and that of others.
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	13 14 15
15 points			
Conclusion-Synthesis Main Body of Paper	Does not (minimal/superficial) attempt to address synthesis or lacks historical understanding.	Displays some understanding of the past by making meaningful and persuasive historical and/or cross-disciplinary connections between a given historical issue and other historical contexts, periods, themes, or disciplines.	Displays a clear understanding of the past by making meaningful and persuasive historical and/or cross-disciplinary connections between a given historical issue and other historical contexts, periods, themes, or disciplines.
	0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
10 points			

Footnotes	Few, (if any) of the footnote entries follow proper Chicago Style.	Most footnote entries follow proper Chicago Style.	All footnote entries follow proper Chicago Style.
	0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
10 points			
Bibliography	Few (if any) bibliographic entries follow proper Chicago Style and/or adhere to paper requirements for primary and secondary sources.	Most bibliographic entries follow proper Chicago Style and/or adhere to paper requirements for primary and secondary sources.	All bibliographic entries follow proper Chicago Style and adhere to paper requirements for primary and secondary sources.
	0 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
10 points			

Total= _____/100

Papers that are exceed or do not meet the page requirements will be deducted 10 points per page.

Failure to submit any of the above categories will result in a grade of 50% or b

Does not meet would represent 0-F *Progressing would represent D-low B *Meets the standard would represent mid-B to A