

RESEARCH ESSAY RUBRIC 09-5a

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		<i>Content</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Research</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Mechanics</i>	<i>Overall Effectiveness</i>
4 ✓+	EXEMPLARY	Main idea is original and insightful, and is expressed and explained clearly and creatively. Accurate, perceptive use of specific supporting details.	Logical, comprehensive, and imaginative order. Smoothly integrated support. Creative, varied transitions. Strong lead and conclusion.	Exceeds assigned number of sources. Sophisticated variety of sources (including print, electronic, and other). All citations in text correctly follow assigned format (MLA, etc.). Works Cited page is complete and accurate, and correctly follows assigned format (MLA, etc.).	Author's originality is evident and enriches the overall effectiveness. Varied and sophisticated sentence structure. Very few or no errors (≤1/page) in grammar or word forms. Fluent, precise, creative word choice. Distinctive but objective tone appropriate to purpose.	Very few or no errors in spelling, punctuation, etc. (≤1/page). Follows assigned format (e.g., MLA) for layout (margins, headings, etc.) Polished, creative appearance.	Meets or exceeds all expectations and requirements.
3 ✓	PROFICIENT	Main idea is logical, relevant, and explained clearly. Consistently accurate, relevant use of specific supporting details.	Logical, straightforward order. Clearly integrated support. Smooth, logical transitions. Effective, appropriate lead and conclusion.	Includes assigned number of different sources. Variety of appropriate sources used (including print, electronic, and other). Correct format used for nearly all (>90%) citations in text. Mostly complete, accurate, and correctly formatted Works Cited page.	Mostly varied, clear sentence structure. Very few errors (1-2/page) in grammar or word forms. Clear, careful word choice. Objective tone appropriate to purpose.	Few errors in spelling, punctuation, etc. (1-2/page) Follows assigned format for layout. Neat.	Meets all (or nearly all) expectations and requirements.
2 ✓-	DEVELOPING	Main idea is relevant and generally clear, but limited. Logic is faulty, vague, or simplistic at times. Some well-chosen support, but at times imprecise, inaccurate, irrelevant, or unclear. Minor errors of fact.	Sometimes random, illogical, vague, repetitive, or incomplete order. Awkward, disjointed, or inconsistent integration of support. Adequate but sometimes abrupt transitions. Adequate lead and conclusion.	Includes 75-90% of assigned number of sources. 10-25% of sources are inappropriate, unreliable, or undocumented. Correct format used for most (75-90%) citations in text. Generally complete, accurate, correctly formatted Works Cited page.	Varied but sometimes repetitive, awkward, or faulty sentence structure. Mostly simple but complete sentences. Several minor but distracting errors in grammar or word forms (2-3/page). Uncertain, subjective, or inconsistent in tone. Word choice is at times imprecise, wordy, elementary, unidiomatic, or inappropriate.	Minor errors of spelling, punctuation, etc. (2-3/page) Inconsistently follows assigned format. Fairly neat.	Adequately meets some but not all expectations and requirements.
1 -	BEGINNING	Main idea is vague, simplistic, unclear, or irrelevant. Several significant errors of fact. Vague, inaccurate, or garbled source references. Inadequate support.	Incomplete, illogical, rambling, or unclear order. Weakly integrated support. Insufficient or unclear transitions. Ineffective or irrelevant lead or conclusion.	Insufficient variety of research sources used. >25% of sources are inappropriate, unreliable, or undocumented. Incorrect format used for many or most (>25%) citations in text. Incomplete, inaccurate, or incorrectly formatted Words Cited page.	Often awkward or repetitive sentence structure. Several or many significant errors in grammar or word forms (3+/page). Uncertain or inappropriate in tone. Meaning unclear at times. Word choice is repetitive, elementary, or inappropriate.	Several or many errors of spelling, punctuation, etc. (3+/page). Does not follow assigned format. Sloppy.	Fails to meet most expectations and requirements.
0		Insufficient material on which to judge. Little or no apparent effort. No source references appear in the paper. No Works Cited page.					