

Research Paper

Overview:

Write a research paper based on the topic chosen. Answer the topic question and support your opinion with appropriate resources.

Instructions:

The essay must have the following components:

- An Introduction that briefly sets up the topic and states the premise of your paper.
- A thesis at the end of the introduction that clearly answers the topic question
- Supporting sections of the body that defend your thesis, which includes evidence from the works selected and the academic/scholarly sources used.
- A concluding paragraph that summarizes your findings.

Requirements:

- Length and format: 3 - 5 pages, excluding title and reference pages.
- Follow APA formatting: double spaced, written in Times New Roman, in 12 pt.
- Minimum of three sources, excluding the textbook. You may add the textbook as a 4th source.

Be sure to read the criteria, by which your paper/project will be evaluated, before you write, and again after you write.

Evaluation Rubric

	Deficient	Needs Improvement	Proficient	Exemplary
	<i>0 – 13 points</i>	<i>14 – 15 points</i>	<i>16 – 17 points</i>	<i>18 – 20 points</i>
Introduction and Conclusion	Introduction and conclusion are a random collection of information, unclear, not related to the topic or are not present.	Introduction and conclusion are both recognizable, but may lack some relatability. The introduction is attempted and explains the background, but may lack detail. Conclusion is recognizable and restates the thesis and main points of the argument.	The introduction and conclusion are relatable. Introduction explains the background, including an overview of the essay's main points. The conclusion effectively restates the essay's thesis, but also leaves the reader with something to consider.	Introduction and conclusion are relatable and connect well together. The introduction sets up the essay well and the conclusion brings the essay to a clear and concise ending.
Research Answer and Organization	The essay includes a thesis that answers the question in an unclear fashion or not at all. The essay lacks some organization and does not always flow from topic to topic.	The essay includes a thesis that is attempted with little relation to the overall topic and research question. Some parts of the essay are well organized, while others may lack detail and clarity.	The essay includes a thesis that answers the research question with some minor need for clarification. Most parts of the essay are well organized, detailed and clear.	The essay includes a thesis that thoughtfully answers the research question. The essay is well organized, detailed, and clear.
Evidence and Support	Very little or no researched or literary evidence is given and used in the essay properly. Text support is not included and/or text support is not cited. Evidence may not relate to the thesis statement. Cited evidence is not properly formatted.	Some researched or literary evidence is given and used in the essay properly. Evidence is somewhat related to the thesis statement. Evidence may or may not always be cited properly.	Researched and literary evidence is tied to specific evaluation criteria. Evidence is mostly tied to the thesis statement and used properly and is cited properly.	Researched and literary evidence is tied to specific evaluation criteria and the thesis statement. Evidence is used effectively and cited properly.

APA Format	APA guidelines not followed.	Some APA guidelines partially followed.	Most APA guidelines are followed.	APA guidelines are followed.
Grammar and Mechanics	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and mechanics errors occur throughout document. Word choices are seldom academic. Sentence structure may be illogical or unclear.	Several errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and mechanics present. Word choice reveals some understanding of academic language requirements. Many sentence structure issues exist.	Some spelling, grammar, punctuation and mechanical errors are evident. Academic language is upheld. The sentence structure is often logical and clear so that relationships among ideas are established.	Free of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and other mechanical errors. Consistent use of academic word choices. Sentence structure is mostly logical and clear.