

Research Essay Rubric

	UNSATISFACTORY	ACCEPTABLE	PROFICIENT	DISTINGUISHED
Paper Focus: Thesis/ Position Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak introduction of the research topic NO clear thesis statement or is not clearly defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate introduction of the research topic Has a thesis statement that is somewhat unclear and needs to be developed further 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficient introduction of the research topic Has a thesis statement that provides adequate direction for the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional introduction of the research topic Thesis is well developed, concise, and indicates a clear direction for the paper
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper lacks focus throughout Demonstrates a lack of understanding and inadequate analysis of the research topic and thesis. Ideas are based on opinion and/or empty citations. Inadequate scholarly evidence to support discussion; analysis is vague, inaccurate, or not evident. The writing is not logically organized to support the thesis. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a consistent line of reasoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focal point is not consistently maintained throughout the paper. Demonstrates general understanding with limited critical analysis of the topic. Discussion is too shallow to adequately support thesis. Limited use of scholarly evidence; provides some evidence to support the thesis with only a few research sources Mostly logically organized, but ideas often fail to make sense together. The reader must make connections to identify a line of reasoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thesis is generally the focal point of the paper. Content provides reasonable support for the thesis Discussion indicates an understanding of the topic, making some broader connections Reader gains some insights. Evidence from scholarly sources is adequate to support the discussion The ideas are arranged logically to support the central thesis and mostly clearly linked. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thesis is consistently the focus of the paper Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information that clearly supports the thesis The writer's ideas are well supported with multiple sources of relevant scholarly evidence. Reader gains important insights. Thoughtful, in-depth analysis synthesizes evidence to expose new, relevant, logical inferences. The ideas are arranged logically, flow smoothly, and are clearly linked. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.
APA Writing Style, Grammar, & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readability is seriously limited by some or all the following: poor sentence structure, word choice, mechanics, and grammar. Awkward or unclear passages are frequent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readability is limited slightly by some or all the following: poor sentence structure, word choice, mechanics, and grammar. Writing has noticeable awkward or unclear passages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few errors in sentence structure, grammar, and mechanics are noticeable. Word choice and tone are mostly appropriate. Writing may have a few awkward or unclear passages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are few or no grammatical and/or mechanical errors. Word choice and tone are appropriate. Writing is clear, concise, and easily followed.
APA Citations & References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA reference and/or citation formatting is not acceptable for graduate level work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing or inaccurate reference and/or citation errors detract significantly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets APA requirements for MOST in-text citations and reference page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets APA requirements for ALL in-text citations and reference page