**Research Paper Rubric**

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| **Criteria** | **Unsatisfactory - Beginning** | **Developing** | **Accomplished** | **Exemplary** | **Total** |
| **Paper Focus: Purpose/ Position Statement** | **0-13 points** | **14-15 points** | **16-17 points** | **18-20 points** | /20 |
| Fails to identify a relevant research topic or is not clearly defined and/or the paper lacks focus throughout. | Identifies a research topic but may be too broad in scope and/or the thesis is somewhat unclear and needs to be developed further. Focal point is not consistently maintained throughout the paper. | Identifies a relevant research topic and a thesis that provides adequate direction for the paper with some degree of interest for the reader. The thesis states the position, premise, or hypothesis, and is the focal point of the paper for the most part. | Identifies a relevant research topic and a thesis that provides direction for the paper that is engaging and thought provoking. The thesis clearly and concisely states the position, premise, or hypothesis and is consistently the focal point throughout the paper. |
| **Analysis** | **0-22 points** | **21-23 points** | **24-26 points** | **27-30 points** | /30 |
| Demonstrates a lack of understanding and inadequate analysis of the research topic and thesis. Analysis is superficial based on opinions and preferences rather than critical analysis. | Demonstrates general understanding with limited critical analysis of the research topic and thesis (argument). Summarizes perspectives, counter-arguments, or opposing positions. | Demonstrates an understanding and some critical analysis of the research topic and thesis (argument). Adequately compares/contrasts perspectives, counter-arguments, or opposing positions but broader connections and/or implications are not as thoroughly explored. | Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding and careful, critical analysis of the research topic and thesis (argument). Compares/contrasts perspectives, considers counter arguments or opposing positions, and draws original and thoughtful conclusions with future implications. |
| **Evidence (Sources)** | **0-22 points** | **21-23 points** | **24-26 points** | **27-30 points** | /30 |
| Lacks sufficient research sources to support the central position and/or, if included, are generally not relevant, accurate, or reliable. Contains numerous factual mistakes, omissions, or oversimplifications. Sources, if included, are not properly referenced and cited in the paper. | Provides some evidence to support the central position with only a few research sources. Some sources may not be relevant, accurate, and reliable and/or appropriately referenced and cited in the paper. | Provides essential, accurate evidence to support the central position with the required (15) research that are mostly relevant, accurate, and reliable. Most of the sources are referenced and cited appropriately throughout the paper. | Provides compelling and accurate evidence to support in-depth the central position beyond the required (15) research sources. Research sources are highly relevant, accurate, and reliable and add to the strength of the paper; and are effectively referenced and cited throughout the paper. |

**Research Paper Rubric (continued)**

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| **Criteria** | **Unsatisfactory - Beginning** | **Developing** | **Accomplished** | **Exemplary** | **Total** |
| **Writing Quality & Adherence to Format Guidelines** | **0-13 points** | **14-15 points** | **16-17 points** | **18-20 points** | /20 |
| Paper shows a below average/poor writing style lacking in elements of appropriate standard English and following proper APA guidelines. Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or formatting. | Paper shows an average and/or casual writing style using standard English and following APA guidelines. Some errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage, and/or formatting. | Paper shows above average writing style and clarity in writing using standard English and following APA guidelines. Minor errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or formatting. | Paper is well written and clear using APA guidelines and standard English characterized by elements of a strong writing style. Basically, free from grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, or formatting errors. |
| **Timeliness, \* Length of Paper & Originality** | **Deduct 100 points** | **Deduct 100 points** | **Deduct 100 points** | **0 points deducted** | /--- |
| Paper is unoriginal, in that plagiarism software indicated that more than 20% came directly from the source(s). Everything should be in your own words. | Paper is submitted after the deadline. | Paper is does not meet the required length. | Paper is submitted by the deadline and meets the required length. |
| **TOTAL POINTS (sum of 5 Criteria)** | | | | | **/100** |