

Research Paper

	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Fair	1 Needs Work
Topic	Topic is well-defined and clear with specific parameters	Topic is somewhat defined but lacks real focus.	Topic is very broad, making research difficult.	The topic is not clear; the author may not understand the topic well.
Title	The title catches the reader's interest and clarifies the topic of the paper.	The title identifies the topic of the paper and creates a level of interest in the reader.	The title makes clear the topic of the paper.	The title of the paper is just a title.
Sources	The author has used a majority of primary sources and has used a good variety of types of sources.	The author has used some primary and some secondary sources. There is variety in types of sources used.	The author uses mostly secondary sources. There is little variety in types of sources used.	The author has used only secondary sources or all one type of source.
Bibliography/Works Cited	The bibliography or works cited is divided into primary and secondary sources, annotated and alphabetized correctly by author's last name.	The bibliography or works cited shows both primary and secondary sources. There is some annotation for sources. The sources are generally alphabetized by author's last name.	The bibliography or works cited is not clear on whether sources are primary or secondary. There is no annotation. The bibliography is not alphabetized by author's last name.	There is no bibliography or works cited attached to the paper.
Organization	The paper contains an interesting introduction and clear thesis. The body is well organized and good transitions are used. There is a well-developed conclusion.	The introduction includes the thesis. Most of the paragraphs flow together. The conclusion summarizes most of the key points of the paper.	The thesis is not clear. Most of the paragraphs do not connect with each other. The conclusion fails to summarize key points.	There is no thesis. Paragraphs do not connect with each other. There is no conclusion.
Conventions	The author has correctly used standard writing conventions: (i.e. spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paragraphing) effectively to enhance readability. Errors tend to be so few that just minor touchups would get this piece ready to publish.	The author has used most standard writing conventions. Much of the paper is readable and without mistakes.	The author has used a limited range of standard writing conventions. These errors may be distracting and impair readability.	The author has struggled with a limited vocabulary, searching for words to convey meaning. There are many mistakes of spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization or paragraphing.
Research	The author has done effective research using many sources. The main points are clear and they are tied together with good transitions. All sources are correctly cited.	The author's research represents a limited number of sources. Some transitions help tie the information together. Most sources are correctly cited.	The author has used only one or two sources. There are few transitions to tie the information together. Most sources are correctly cited.	The author has used only one source. The source may or may not be correctly cited.
Rough draft	The author has edited the paper effectively for spelling and punctuation, organization, citations, and correctness of content. Editing marks are correctly used. A peer or parent has also edited the paper in a different color ink and signed as the editor.	The author has edited the paper for spelling and punctuation, organization, citations, and correctness of content and has found most of the errors. Editing marks are used correctly most of the time.	The author has edited the paper for spelling and punctuation, organization, citations, and correctness of content, but has left many errors. Editing marks are used for only some errors or are used incorrectly.	The author has not edited the paper.
Final paper	The final paper has very few errors and has complete, correct citations. A wide variety of sources has been used to substantiate the author's thesis. Information contained in the paper is correct.	The final paper has a few noticeable errors and has most information cited correctly. There are enough sources used to substantiate the author's thesis. Information contained in the paper is correct.	The final paper contains distracting errors. Information is not always cited correctly. There are not enough sources used to substantiate the author's thesis. There may be some incorrect information in the paper.	The final paper contains distracting errors, either in spelling or punctuation, organization, citations, or information.
Writing	The writing is in the author's own words with all information correctly cited. Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting, and natural way. The words are powerful and engaging. The style is consistent throughout the paper.	The writing is generally in the author's own words and most of the information is correctly cited. The writing is functional, even if it lacks energy. It is easy to figure out the writer's meaning on a general level. The style is generally consistent throughout the paper.	The language of paper has been taken from the sources and not put into the writer's own words. It is difficult to follow the direction the writer is taking in the paper. The writing style is inconsistent because the style comes from various sources, not the writer.	The paper is neither cited nor in the writer's own words.