

**Research Paper Rubric
(Grading Guide)**

Criteria	Exemplary	Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Cover Sheet	Title, Your name, Teacher's name, class, date, no errors 5 points	Evidence of 4 4 points	Evidence of 3 3 points	Evidence of 2 or less 2 points or less
Opening Paragraph	Thesis clearly and concisely states the purpose. Is engaging and relevant. Previews the structure of the paper. No errors 25 points	States the purpose of the paper and is clear. Minimal errors 18 points	States main topic but is not engaging and does not outline structure 10 points	Does not state purpose, Lots of grammatical errors. Unclear on all fronts 5 points or less
First Argument/Main point	Outlines an idea. Has clear, thoughtful facts or arguments to support idea and topic of paper. No errors. 25 points	Each paragraph has some sufficient detail. Minimal errors. 18 points	Paragraph lacks details. Writing unclear. Some errors. 10 points	No evidence to support points, many errors. 5 points or less
Second Argument/Main point	Outlines an idea. Has clear, thoughtful facts or arguments to support idea and topic of paper. No errors. 25 points	Each paragraph has some sufficient detail. Minimal errors. 18 points	Paragraph lacks details. Writing unclear. Some errors. 10 points	No evidence to support points, many errors. 5 points or less

Third Argument/Main point	Outlines an idea. Has clear, thoughtful facts or arguments to support idea and topic of paper. No errors. 25 points	Each paragraph has some sufficient detail. Minimal errors. 18 points	Paragraph lacks details. Writing unclear. Some errors. 10 points	No evidence to support points, many errors. 5 points or less
Closing Paragraph	The conclusion is engaging and restates personal learning. Organized and draws facts together in coherent way. No errors 25 points	The conclusion restates the purpose. Minimal errors. 18 points	The conclusion does not adequately restate the purpose. 10 points	No evidence of a conclusion. 0 points
Bibliography	Done in MLA or APA with no errors. Has at least 3 good references 25 points	Done in correct format or some evidence of format error. Has at least 3 references 18 points	Not in correct format. Less than 3 references. 10 points	No bibliography 0 points
Citation	All main ideas are cited in the text. MLA or APA is utilized correctly with no error. If a fact is mentioned in 3 or more sources, you do not need citation. Otherwise, it is required. 25 points	Some cited works. Errors in consistency. 18 points	Few cited works are done in the correct format. 10 points	No citations.
Grammar/Spelling	No errors in spelling, sentence structure, etc. 20 points	Limited Errors 15 points	Many errors 10 points	Can't read 0 points