**Research Paper Rubric**

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| **Category** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Thesis Statement | Clearly stated and appropriately focused. | Clearly stated but focus needed to be sharper. | Thesis stated but not appropriately focused. | Thesis is inferred but not stated. | No statement of thesis or objective for research observed. |
| Quality of Information as related to the thesis | Information clearly related to the thesis, included consistent supporting details and/or examples. | Information clearly related to the thesis, provided adequate supporting details and/or examples. | Information clearly related to the thesis, provided some supporting details and/or examples. | Information related to the thesis, no details or examples provided. | Information had little or nothing to do with thesis. |
| Organization/ Length/ Conclusion  | Information is logically organized. Length is appropriate (8-10 Pages) | Information is adequately organized and/ or paper is too long or short.  | Information is somewhat organized and/ or length is insufficient.  | Obvious lack of organization. Paper is too short.  | No observable organization. |
| Paragraph Construction | All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, concluding sentence with a transition. | Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, concluding sentence with a transition. | Paragraphs included related information, but were typically not constructed well. | Paragraph structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs. | No paragraphs observed. |
| Mechanics/ Title Page | No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors observed. Title page is correct.  | Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors observed. | A few grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors observed. | Many grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors observed. | No observable effort in the area of mechanics. |
| Parenthetical Referencing | All sources accurately documented in parenthetical references. | Most sources accurately documented in parenthetical references and/ or a few were not in MLA  | Some sources accurately documented in parenthetical references, but many were not in MLA  | Some sources are not accurately documented. | No parenthetical references observed. |
| MLA Formatting/ Works Cited Page | 5 or more appropriate sources documented properly. Works Cited page is free from error. | At least 4 appropriate sources documented properly. Works Cited page contains almost no errors. | At least 3 appropriate sources documented properly. Works Cited page contains a few errors.  | At least 2 appropriate sources documented properly. Works Cited page done incorrectly.  | No observable effort in MLA formatting. |