

Writing Intensive Course Research Paper Rubric

Student Name: _____

Course Code/Name: _____ Instructor: _____

Performance Rating Scale:

Points	Performance Descriptions
4 Exceptional	Work meets or exceeds criterion at a high level of competence.
3 Proficient	Work reflects an understanding of criterion with minor misunderstandings/misconceptions.
2 Basic	Criterion partially met, but one or more important concepts/skills are missing or flawed.
1 Unsatisfactory	Work reflects an attempt to meet criterion, but significant misunderstandings/misconceptions are apparent.
0 Absent	Criterion not met or work is absent

Final Paper/Project Grading Criteria	Ratings				
<i>NAU adheres to a strict plagiarism policy which is outlined in the Student Handbook and the undergraduate catalog. Plagiarized papers will receive a failing grade; additional sanctions may be enforced.</i>	<u>Exceptional</u> 4 points A	<u>Proficient</u> 3 points B	<u>Basic</u> 2 points C	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> 1 point D	<u>Absent</u> 0 points E
Category I. Research Segment (60 possible points / 60% of Total Score)					
1. The research topic <i>fits course</i> and has been approved by the instructor.					
2. The writer remains focused on the <i>purpose</i> of the paper.					
3. The writer keeps the <i>scope of the paper</i> narrow enough to handle subject matter effectively.					
4. The writing is <i>coherent</i> , meaning "logically consistent".					
5. The writing is <i>well-organized</i> .					
6. <i>Paragraphing</i> is appropriate with central points being made in each paragraph. This means that each paragraph includes a <i>clear topic sentence</i> .					
7. <i>Transitions</i> are used to make smooth connections between ideas.					
8. Research is drawn from the literature (i.e., peer-reviewed articles) and an in-depth analysis of at least <i>six (6) research articles</i> with no more than one non-juried/non-refereed Internet site being used.					
9. Body should be approximately 8-9 pages and <i>integrates research</i> .					
10. The <i>evidence</i> is accurate and contains a balance of both generalities and specifics (e.g., explanations, anecdotes, statistics, etc.). In an argument the <i>evidence</i> to support <i>each</i> position is reasonable.					
11. The writer supports <i>generalizations</i> effectively, using <i>vivid details</i> and <i>vivid examples</i> .					
12. The writer has chosen a topic in which each issue presented allows for <i>differences of opinion</i> . This difference is <i>clearly stated</i> .					
13. The Conclusion contains a <i>summary</i> of the findings and <i>possible recommendations</i> for future research.					
14. The writer has effectively used <i>quotation, summary, and paraphrasing skills</i> in providing information					

15. Overall the paper/project reflects college level writing skills .					
CATEGORY I – TOTAL POINTS _____ (60 possible)					
Category II. Critical Thinking (20 possible points / 20% of Total Score)					
16. The writer identifies and presents clear issues .					
17. The writer relies on objective data to support his /her final assertion or claim.					
18. The writer uses sound reasoning to support his/her final assertion or claim.					
19. The writer provides enough information for the audience to understand each argument in order to make thoughtful, critical decisions about the writer’s assertions or claims.					
20. The author refrains from non-arguments or claims without supporting evidence.					
CATEGORY II – TOTAL POINTS _____ (20 possible)					
Category III. Grammar and Mechanics (20 possible points / 20% of Total Score)					
21. Writing adheres to APA style and form (includes Title Page , page numbers, margins, etc).					
22. The paper is free from grammatical errors (e.g., dangling modifiers, subject-verb disagreement, verb tense shift, person shift, pronoun-antecedent disagreement, run-on sentences, comma splices, and diction errors).					
23. The paper includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a complete, one paragraph Abstract of approximately 150 words ◦ a main idea/thesis statement which expresses the over-arching point of the research paper ◦ an attention-getter to capture the reader’s interest ◦ a brief Introduction that serves to establish the context of the topic in broad terms, states research questions (if applicable), and concludes with a clear “focusing statement” and an orientation to the main supporting sections of the paper (approximately 1 page). 					
24. The Body of the paper contains cited scholarly information .					
25. The paper includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a Conclusion that restates the thesis and summarizes the main findings from the review of the literature. (approximately ½ to 2 pages) ◦ a separate Reference Page that has cited all research sources correctly according to APA style. 					
CATEGORY III – TOTAL POINTS _____ (20 possible)					
Total points from Categories I, II, and III					
26. Bonus! The writer uses creative presentation methods (e.g., table, figure, oral/visual presentation). (worth 5 extra percentage points in total score)	Bonus Percentage Points				
FINAL GRADE (Note: a plagiarized paper receives 0 points)					