Writing Intensive Course Research Paper Rubric (Draft)

Student Name: ________________________________________________________________

Course Code/Name: ____________________________________________________________

Instructor: _________________________________________________________________

Performance Rating Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Performance Descriptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exceptional: Work meets or exceeds criterion at a high level of competence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Proficient: Work reflects an understanding of criterion with minor misunderstandings/misconceptions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Basic: Criterion partially met, but one or more important concepts/skills are missing or flawed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>.5</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory: Work reflects an attempt to meet criterion, but significant misunderstandings/misconceptions are apparent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Absent: Criterion not met or work is absent</td>
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Final Paper/Project Grading Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category I. Research Segment</th>
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<tr>
<td>(30 possible points / 30% of Total Score)</td>
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- The research topic **fits course** and has been approved by the instructor.
- The writer remains focused on the **purpose** of the paper.
- The writer keeps the **scope of the paper** narrow enough to handle subject matter effectively.
- The writing is **coherent**, meaning “logically consistent”.
- The writing is **well-organized**.
- **Paragraphing** is appropriate with central points being made in each paragraph. This means that each paragraph includes a **clear topic sentence**.
- **Transitions** are used to make smooth connections between ideas.
- Research is drawn from the literature (i.e., peer-reviewed articles) and an in-depth analysis of at least **six (6) research articles** with no more than one non-juried/non-refereed Internet site being used.
- Body should be approximately 8-9 pages and **integrates research**.
- The **evidence** is accurate and contains a balance of both generalities and specifics (e.g., explanations, anecdotes, statistics, etc.). In an argument the **evidence** to support each position is reasonable.
- The writer supports **generalizations** effectively, using **vivid details** and **vivid examples**.
- The writer has chosen a topic in which each issue presented allows for **differences of opinion**. This difference is **clearly stated**.
- The Conclusion contains a **summary** of the findings and **possible recommendations** for future research.
- The writer has effectively used **quotation, summary, and paraphrasing skills** in providing information.
Overall the paper/project reflects **college level writing skills**.

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY I – TOTAL POINTS __________________ (30 possible)</th>
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**Category II. Critical Thinking**
(10 possible points / 10% of Total Score)

- The writer identifies and presents **clear issues**.
- The writer relies on **objective data** to support his/her final assertion or claim.
- The writer uses **sound reasoning** to support his/her final assertion or claim.
- 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.
- The author **refrains from non-arguments or claims** without supporting evidence.

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<th>CATEGORY II – TOTAL POINTS __________________ (10 possible)</th>
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**Category III. Grammar and Mechanics**
(10 possible points / 10% of Total Score)

- Writing adheres to **APA style and form** (includes Title Page, page numbers, margins, etc).
- 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).
- The paper includes the following:
  - 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).
- The **Body** of the paper contains **cited scholarly information**.
- The paper includes the following:
  - 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.

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<th>CATEGORY III – TOTAL POINTS __________________________ (10 possible)</th>
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**Total points from Categories I, II, and III**

**Bonus!** The writer uses **creative presentation methods** (e.g., table, figure, oral/visual presentation). **Bonus Percentage Points**

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<th>FINAL GRADE</th>
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