

Rubric for Research Paper

Essay Component	1	2	3	4
Thesis Statement and Conclusion	Thesis is missing, very weak, or unclear. No introduction. Inaccuracies. No conclusion.	Thesis is present but argument is weak, unclear, or incomplete. Weak conclusion.	Thesis is clear in introduction and supported throughout paper. Clear conclusion.	
Evidence	Supporting evidence is missing. Thesis is not supported. Evidence is unclear.	Some examples are presented but are weak, ineffective or irrelevant.	Relevant and appropriate examples are used to support the thesis throughout paper.	
Sources and Documentation	Does not follow guidelines on source material. Documentation is absent or incorrect.	Some but not all of guidelines for sources are followed. Documentation is not consistently correct.	Source guidelines are followed and documentation follows Chicago style.	
Organization and Mechanics	Is not clearly organized. Writing is unclear. Argument is confused. Grammar and structure detract from clarity.	Argument does not flow logically. Has some organizational and mechanical problems.	Argument is clear and logical. Topic sentences identify key points. Grammar and mechanics are in good order.	
Total				