

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 <i>college level writing skills</i> .					
CATEGORY I – TOTAL POINTS _____ (60 possible)					
Category II. Critical Thinking (20 possible points / 20% of Total Score)					
16. The writer identifies and presents <i>clear issues</i> .					
17. The writer relies on <i>objective data</i> to support his /her final assertion or claim.					
18. The writer uses <i>sound reasoning</i> to support his/her final assertion or claim.					
19. The writer provides <i>enough information</i> for the audience to understand each argument in order to make thoughtful, critical decisions about the writer’s assertions or claims.					
20. The author <i>refrains from non-arguments or claims</i> 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 <i>APA style and form</i> (includes <i>Title Page</i> , page numbers, margins, etc).					
22. The paper is <i>free from grammatical errors</i> (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 <i>cited scholarly information</i> .					
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 <i>creative presentation methods</i> (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)					