

Research Paper Rubric

Criteria	Outstanding 90-100	Excellent 80-89	Adequate 70-79	Basic 60-69	Inadequate >60
MLA	Meets MLA standards without any major errors in MLA format quoting, paraphrasing, or Works Cited page.	Meets nearly all MLA standards with little error.	Meets most MLA standards with occasional error.	Meets a good portion of MLA standards, but has some errors that cause some confusion.	Frequently does not meet MLA standards having many errors that cause confusion.
Source Usage	Has two or more different sources in each paragraph that are completely cohesive in content	Has two or more different sources in each paragraph that are very cohesive in context.	Has two or more sources in each paragraph that are fairly cohesive in content.	Has two or more different sources in most paragraphs that are fairly co	One or two paragraphs having two or more sources in each paragraph.
Transitions	Transitions smoothly to a degree of near flawlessness from one source to the next.	Transitions smoothly to a degree of very few flaws from one source to the next.	Transitions smoothly, but has occasional flaws from one source to the next, but not to the degree to cause confusion.	Transitions awkwardly and has regular flaws from one source to the next, occasionally causing confusion for the reader.	Transitions awkwardly and has habitual flaws from one source to the next, often causing confusion for the reader.
Content	Insightful and outstanding commentary that always flows smoothly, adheres completely to evidence being used, never strays from thesis, and doubles the amount of quoted material.	Excellent commentary that flows smoothly, adheres excellently to evidence being used, rarely strays from thesis, and doubles the amount of quoted material.	Adequate commentary that flows smoothly most often, adheres adequately to evidence being used, occasionally strays from thesis, and almost doubles the amount of quoted material.	Basic commentary that basically flows smoothly (with occasional confusion), basically adheres to evidence being used, but does tend to stray from the thesis here and there. Commentary might barely exceed evidence quoted.	Has less than basic commentary that regularly causes confusion and quite often stray from evidence being used as well as thesis. Commentary may or may not equal the amount of evidence being used.
Grammar	Outstanding grammar and sentence structure which never causes confusion for the reader.	Excellent grammar and sentence structure that rarely causes confusion for the reader.	Good grammar and sentence structure that periodically causes confusion for the reader.	Adequate grammar and sentence structure which often causes confusion for the reader.	Poor grammar and sentence structure that habitually causes confusion for the reader.
Organization	Outstanding organization reflecting thesis.	Excellent organization reflecting thesis.	Good organization reflecting thesis.	Basic organization reflecting thesis.	Little if any organization reflecting thesis.