

Student: _____ Teacher: _____

Assignment: _____ Course: _____ SLEs: _____ Validated?: Yes No
 (Circle each SLE for which this assignment is portfolio-worthy)

RESEARCH ESSAY RUBRIC

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		Content	Organization and Development	Research	Style	Mechanics	Overall Effectiveness	
4	✓+	Exceeds the standard	Main idea is insightful and original. Focus of essay is logical, relevant, and expressed clearly. Accurate, perceptive use of specific, logical support and details.	Logical, comprehensive order. Effective development and elaboration of topic. Smoothly integrated support. Creative, varied transitions. Strong lead and conclusion	Exceeds assigned number of sources. Sophisticated variety of sources (including print, electronic, and other). Multiple source references integrated throughout. All citations in text correctly follow assigned MLA format. Works Cited page is complete and accurate, and correctly follows assigned MLA format.	Author's originality is evident and enriches the overall effectiveness. Varied and sophisticated sentence structure. Very few or no errors (≤1/page) in grammar or word forms. Fluent, precise, creative word choice. Distinctive but objective tone appropriate to purpose.	Very few or no errors in spelling, punctuation, etc. (≤1/page). Follows assigned MLA format for layout (margins, headings, etc.) Polished, creative appearance.	Meets or exceeds all expectations and requirements creatively.
3	✓	Meets the standard	Logical, relevant main idea. Consistently accurate, relevant use of specific, logical support and details.	Logical, straightforward order. Effective development of topic. Clearly integrated support. Smooth, logical transitions. Effective, appropriate lead and conclusion.	Includes assigned number of different sources. Variety of appropriate sources used (including print, electronic, and other). Source references included throughout. Correct format used for nearly all (>90%) citations in text. Mostly complete, accurate, and correctly formatted Works Cited page.	Mostly varied, clear sentence structure. Very few errors (1-2/page) in grammar or word forms. Clear, careful word choice. Objective tone appropriate to purpose.	Few errors in spelling, punctuation, etc. (1-2/page) Follows assigned MLA format for layout. Neat.	Meets all (or nearly all) expectations and requirements.
2	✓-	Approaches the standard	Main idea is relevant and generally clear, but lacks depth. Logic is faulty, vague, or simplistic at times. Some well-chosen support, but at times undocumented, imprecise, inaccurate, irrelevant, or inadequately explained. Minor errors of fact.	Generally clear but underdeveloped focus on main idea. Sometimes arbitrary, illogical, vague, repetitive, or incomplete order. Awkward, disjointed, or inconsistent integration of support. Adequate but sometimes abrupt transitions. Adequate lead and conclusion.	Includes 75-90% of assigned number of sources. Source references appear in the text. 10-25% of sources are inappropriate unreliable, or undocumented. Correct format used for most (75-90% citations in text. Generally complete, accurate, correctly formatted Works Cited page.	Varied but sometimes repetitive, awkward, or faulty sentence structure. Mostly simple but complete sentences. Several minor but distracting errors in grammar or word forms (2-3/page). Uncertain, subjective, or inconsistent in tone. Word choice is at times imprecise, wordy, elementary, unidiomatic, or inappropriate.	Minor errors of spelling, punctuation, etc. (2-3/page) Inconsistently follows assigned format. Fairly neat.	Adequately meets some but not all expectations and requirements.
1	-	Below the standard	Focus and main idea are vague, simplistic, unclear, or irrelevant. Several significant errors of fact. Support is vague, inaccurate, undocumented, or garbled. Inadequate support.	Inconsistent, superficial, or rambling development of topic. Incomplete, illogical, arbitrary, or unclear order. Weakly integrated support. Insufficient or unclear transitions. Ineffective or irrelevant lead or conclusion.	Few source references appear in text. Insufficient variety of research sources used. >25% of sources are inappropriate unreliable, or undocumented. Incorrect format used for many or most (>25%) citations in text. Incomplete, inaccurate, or incorrectly formatted Words Cited page.	Little sentence variety. Often awkward sentence structure. Several or many significant errors in grammar or word forms (3+/page). Uncertain or inappropriate in tone. Meaning unclear at times. Word choice is repetitive, elementary, or inappropriate. Little or no descriptive or figurative language.	Several or many errors of spelling, punctuation, format, etc. (3+/page). Does not follow assigned format. Sloppy.	Fails to meet most expectations and requirements.
0			Insufficient material on which to judge. Little or no apparent effort.	Insufficient material on which to judge. Little or no apparent effort.	No source references appear in the paper. No Works Cited page.	Insufficient material on which to judge. Little or no apparent effort.	Insufficient material to judge. Little or no effort.	Insufficient material to judge. Little or no effort.

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