

Research Paper – Rubric

An “A” Paper – Brilliant/Excellent

Title is unexpectedly delightful and fully grabs reader's attention

Thesis fully answers essay prompt with unique, bold, and arguable insight

Each body paragraph's topic sentence sets a clear, powerful path in developing the thesis

Researched material includes insightful, unexpected choices and is smoothly embedded into the body

Commentary shows depth of thought and presents unique, interesting insight

Powerful vocabulary with no repetition of key words or phrases; always fresh and interesting

Excellent sentence flow and variety of sentence structures

Skillful use of transitions to help create a unified, cohesive piece of writing

M.L.A. citations are correctly formatted and skillfully embedded so the resource information is seamless

A lively, interesting writer's voice comes through to the audience

A “B” Paper – Good/Above Average

Title is appropriate to the topic, but lacks great inspiration

Thesis fully answers essay prompt, but lacks the power of the “A” level thesis

Each body paragraph's topic sentence logically supports the thesis, but doesn't add more power

Researched material is appropriate, but rather obvious at times; material is appropriately placed in the body

Commentary is generally good analysis, but a bit obvious at times; sometimes, you don't dig deep enough

Good vocabulary that clearly, but not always powerfully, expresses your ideas; you don't repeat words or phrases

Smooth sentence flow and occasionally effective sentence variety

Correct use of transitions for unity and cohesiveness

M.L.A. citations are correctly formatted and embedded

The writer's voice comes through to the audience, but the passion falls flat at times

A “C” Paper – Okay/Average

Title is flat or predictable

Thesis answers essay prompt, but is tired, clichéd, or too safe/bland

Each body paragraph's topic sentence supports the thesis, but construction is mechanical

Evidence of research is present, but you didn't dig deep enough into your subject. Embedding of material is clunky

Commentary is too obvious, superficial, simplistic, or repetitive; you don't take your ideas very far

Average, simple vocabulary or overly flowery language that blocks meaning at times

Sentence flow is choppy at times; limited sentence variety

Limited use of transitions; at times, an inappropriate transition is used or is missing altogether

M.L.A. citations are correctly formatted for the most part, but embedding is clunky/not always handled well

The writer's voice is flat, too formal, or rigid. Where's the passion in your voice?

A “D” Paper – Demonstrates Problems/Below Average

Title is just a restatement of the title of the work being discussed or just a label

Thesis does not fully answer the essay prompt; you seem to be struggling with your thoughts

Each body paragraph's topic sentence doesn't clearly connect to the thesis and/or is missing altogether

Researched material is inaccurate or not connected to the topic sentence; embedding of material is clunky

Commentary is weak, veers off-topic, or relies too heavily on just presenting more facts/figures from research

Flat, below grade-level vocabulary and/or inappropriate diction

Flow is mostly choppy and erratic; little or no sentence variety

Little or no use of transitions

M.L.A. citations are not correctly formatted or embedded

No writer's voice is present. The words are lifeless or robotic.

A “F” Paper – Far Below Average

Is incomplete, incoherent, undeveloped, or does not meet the requirements of the assignment

Content:

Grammar:

out of 50 possible pts.

out of 50 possible pts.