

Scoring Sheet: Research Paper

<u>Format</u> (1-10)	<u>Language</u> (1-30)	<u>Content</u> (1-40)	<u>Use of secondary sources</u> (1-20)	TOTAL _____

90-100 (A)

Paper is well focused, cohesive, insightful, instructive, and persuasive. The paper contains a thoughtful, compelling, systematic, and refined **argument**. The **thesis** is well crafted, original, and provocative. **Support** for the thesis is thorough and convincing, chosen from respected sources, incorporated skillfully, and cited correctly; counter arguments are weighed impartially with no hint of strong bias or opinion. The conclusion demonstrates intellectual creativity, ties argumentative points together effectively, demonstrates synthesis, and offers perspective on the research question that underscores the paper's argument and structure. **Stylistically**, the paper flows nicely, demonstrates capable control of the English language, and is held together by the effective use of transitions; the paragraphs are focused, ordered and inter-connected; the sentences are varied; the vocabulary is appropriate and exact; the writing demonstrates clarity and precision, and has very few to no grammar or spelling errors. There is no superfluous information or redundancy of language. A correctly formatted works-cited page is included at the end. The final result is a highly polished and original piece of writing.

80-89 (B)

Paper is very strong overall but demonstrates shortcomings in one or more of the areas described above. The paper clearly has potential, and, with more revision and attention to detail, could have fallen into the highest range. The paper succeeds in many areas and is persuasive.

70-79 (C)

Paper is acceptable overall but demonstrates significant shortcomings in one or more of the areas described above. The paper clearly has potential, and, with more revision and attention to detail, could have fallen into a higher range. While perhaps less than fully persuasive, the paper succeeds in communicating a logical argument and in getting its points across.

60-69 (D)

Paper demonstrates limited strengths and significant shortcomings in the areas described above. The paper could have potential but is underdeveloped and in need of some further molding, revision and polishing. The rationale might be flawed or lack complexity, but the paper has the raw components necessary to make a logical, systematic and cogent argument. Overall, the paper demonstrates an acceptable yet minimal level of effort and/or capability.

50-59 (F)

Paper demonstrates extremely limited strengths and significant shortcomings in the areas described above. The paper may have very limited potential, or is underdeveloped and in need of considerable molding, revision and polishing. Overall, the paper demonstrates a lack of effort and/or capability.

0-49

Paper demonstrates no apparent strengths and abundant shortcomings in the areas described above. The paper is too underdeveloped to be given a comprehensive assessment.