

Research Paper Grading Rubric

Student: _____

Date: _____

Your paper will be graded on the following criteria:

1. _____ **Voice/Audience/Style**
 - Is your idea/topic original and pertinent? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you make a marginal contribution over course lectures and class discussions? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Is your language appropriate for an academic paper? Appropriate for your audience? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Is there evidence of your own original thinking? Or, are you merely parroting others? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you paraphrase sources primarily in your own words, quoting occasionally or not at all? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the paper flow, fit together, and read well? Does it hold the interest of the reader? **1-2-3-4-5**

2. _____ **Substance/Content/Research**
 - Does the paper have a basic literature review, showing that you are familiar with what has been written? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the paper draw upon the literature, analyzing it, assessing and critiquing it? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use evidence and analysis to support your arguments? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use academic sources – books, articles, policy papers – rather than Wikipedia/internet? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you effectively use data? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you effectively present data? Do tables, charts, graphs, and/or figures contribute to the reader's understanding of the paper? Do they relate to your text? Is the source of the data cited appropriately? Are tables, charts, graphs, and/or figures formatted correctly and professionally? **1-2-3-4-5**

3. _____ **Economic Thinking**
 - Does your paper show clear evidence of economic thinking? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Are you able to incorporate theory and use economic reasoning as the basis for your arguments? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use basic economic logic (properly)? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Are economic concepts and terms used properly? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Are economic relationships explained and used correctly? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Is there appropriate depth and breadth of economic resources? **1-2-3-4-5**

4. _____ **Clarity and Organization**
 - Does the paper have a title? Your name? Abstract? Page numbers? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the paper have a clear thesis and conclusion? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does your paper have an introduction? A body? A conclusion? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the introduction set the scene for the paper and its structure? Do you offer a clear roadmap for the subsequent paper? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do individual paragraphs flow clearly? Does each paragraph have a topic sentence? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the paper flow clearly between paragraphs? Are transitions smooth and logical? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Are your conclusions and paper clear to the reader? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does the conclusion clearly and concisely summarize the main points of the paper? **1-2-3-4-5**

5. _____ **Mechanics**
 - Did you proofread the paper? Thrice? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use proper spelling? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use proper punctuation? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Is your word choice appropriate? Are technical terms used or abused? Is your vocabulary varied or boring?
 - Do you use proper grammar? Do you avoid colloquial language, fragmented sentences, run-on sentences, and incomplete sentences? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Does your language carry your ideas? Or is it an obstacle? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Is your paper free of typographical errors? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you use the proper style (MLA, APA, or Chicago style)? **1-2-3-4-5**
 - Do you cite ALL outside sources appropriately (quotation marks, bibliography/footnote)? No plagiarism! **1-2-3-4-5**

(Rubric and Comments on back)

