

## Writing Intensive Course Research Paper Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Code/Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Performance Rating Scale:**

Points	Performance Descriptions
<b>4 Exceptional</b>	Work meets or exceeds criterion at a high level of competence.
<b>3 Proficient</b>	Work reflects an understanding of criterion with minor misunderstandings/misconceptions.
<b>2 Basic</b>	Criterion partially met, but one or more important concepts/skills are missing or flawed.
<b>1 Unsatisfactory</b>	Work reflects an attempt to meet criterion, but significant misunderstandings/misconceptions are apparent.
<b>0 Absent</b>	Criterion not met or work is absent

Final Paper/Project Grading Criteria		Ratings				
NAU adheres to a strict plagiarism policy which is outlined in the Student Handbook and the undergraduate catalog. Plagiarized papers will receive a failing grade; additional sanctions may be enforced.		<u>Exceptional</u> 4 points A	<u>Proficient</u> 3 points B	<u>Basic</u> 2 points C	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> 1 point D	<u>Absent</u> 0 points F
<b>Category I. Research Segment (60 possible points / 60% of Total Score)</b>						
1. The research topic <b>fits course</b> and has been approved by the instructor.						
2. The writer remains focused on the <b>purpose</b> of the paper.						
3. The writer keeps the <b>scope of the paper</b> narrow enough to handle subject matter effectively.						
4. The writing is <b>coherent</b> , meaning "logically consistent".						
5. The writing is <b>well-organized</b> .						
6. <b>Paragraphing</b> is appropriate with central points being made in each paragraph. This means that each paragraph includes a <b>clear topic sentence</b> .						
7. <b>Transitions</b> are used to make smooth connections between ideas.						
8. Research is drawn from the literature (i.e., peer-reviewed articles) and an in-depth analysis of at least <b>six (6) research articles</b> with no more than one non-juried/non-refereed Internet site being used.						
9. Body should be approximately 8-9 pages and <b>integrates research</b> .						
10. The <b>evidence</b> is accurate and contains a balance of both generalities and specifics (e.g., explanations, anecdotes, statistics, etc.). In an argument the <b>evidence</b> to support <b>each position</b> is reasonable.						
11. The writer supports <b>generalizations</b> effectively, using <b>vivid details</b> and <b>vivid examples</b> .						
12. The writer has chosen a topic in which each issue presented allows for <b>differences of opinion</b> . This difference is <b>clearly stated</b> .						
13. The Conclusion contains a <b>summary</b> of the findings and <b>possible recommendations</b> for future research.						
14. The writer has effectively used <b>quotation, summary, and paraphrasing skills</b> in providing information						

15. Overall the paper/project reflects **college level writing skills**.

**CATEGORY I – TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_ (60 possible)

**Category II. Critical Thinking** (20 possible points / 20% of Total Score)

16. The writer identifies and presents **clear issues**.

17. The writer relies on **objective data** to support his /her final assertion or claim.

18. The writer uses **sound reasoning** to support his/her final assertion or claim.

19. The writer provides **enough information** for the audience to understand each argument in order to make thoughtful, critical decisions about the writer's assertions or claims.

20. The author **refrains from non-arguments or claims** without supporting evidence.

**CATEGORY II – TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_ (20 possible)

**Category III. Grammar and Mechanics** (20 possible points / 20% of Total Score)

21. Writing adheres to **APA style and form** (includes **Title Page**, page numbers, margins, etc).

22. The paper is **free from grammatical errors** (e.g., dangling modifiers, subject-verb disagreement, verb tense shift, person shift, pronoun-antecedent disagreement, run-on sentences, comma splices, and diction errors).

23. The paper includes the following:

- a complete, one paragraph **Abstract** of approximately 150 words
- a **main idea/thesis** statement which expresses the over-arching point of the research paper
- an **attention-getter** to capture the reader's interest
- a brief **Introduction** that serves to establish the context of the topic in broad terms, states research questions (if applicable), and concludes with a clear "focusing statement" and an orientation to the main supporting sections of the paper (approximately 1 page).

24. The **Body** of the paper contains **cited scholarly information**.

25. The paper includes the following:

- a **Conclusion** that restates the thesis and summarizes the main findings from the review of the literature. (approximately ½ to 2 pages)
- a separate **Reference Page** that has cited all research sources correctly according to APA style.

**CATEGORY III – TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_ (20 possible)

**Total points from Categories I, II, and III**

26. **Bonus!** The writer uses **creative presentation methods** (e.g., table, figure, oral/visual presentation). **(worth 5 extra percentage points in total score)**

**Bonus Percentage Points**

**FINAL GRADE** (Note: a plagiarized paper receives 0 points)