

Senior Project Research Paper Rubric

Student Name _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

First Draft___ Final Draft___ Score_____

Element		Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Comments
M L A F O R M A T	Margins, Font, Structure, Outline, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct format All elements present: Margins, Page Numbering, Spacing, Font, Thesis bolded Length exceeds minimum page requirements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor format errors Missing one element Length meets minimum page requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many and/or severe format errors Missing, incomplete and/or incorrect more than one of the elements Insufficient length 	
	Parenthetical Citation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct format Few or no errors (0-1) Effective and varied use of parenthetical citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct format Few errors (2-3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct format At least 3 sources cited in document Knows when to cite Some errors but not distracting to reader (4 or less) Sufficient citation of facts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect format Does not use all documents from Works Cited page Insufficient citations of facts and/or not citing paraphrased quotes Many errors (5+) No citations used 	
	Works Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No format errors Uses 3+ types of sources Uses 5+ sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No format errors Uses 3+ types of sources Uses 4+ sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct format with some minor errors (less than 2) Uses 3 types of sources Sources alphabetized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses less than 3 types of sources Sources not alphabetized Incorrect format Too many errors (3+) No Works Cited page 	
C O N T E N T	Opening/ Thesis Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging vehicular opening Compelling position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicular opening strong Strong position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicular opening present Topic is evident Position is apparent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicular opening missing Topic, thesis and/or position is not present or unclear Thesis is not arguable or is a statement of fact 	
	Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong use of topic sentences Organization is clear and effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent use of topic sentences Organization is well-defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic sentences used Some organization evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak or no topic sentences used Little organization evident 	
	Concrete Detail: Quality/ Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete detail engaging and compelling Concrete detail used consistently to form a cohesive argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete detail systematically builds argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete detail supports thesis Concrete detail is relevant to position Sufficient data to prove thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some concrete detail does not support thesis Weak data Incorrect use of concrete detail Too much factual data – reads like a report 	
	Commentary: Quality/ Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently weaves commentary and concrete detail Draws reader to position Ideas clearly presented Compelling Ratio of facts to opinion is effectively balanced and appropriate to topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commentary helps develop argument Persuades reader Develops clear ties between commentary and thesis Ratio of facts to opinion well balanced and appropriate to topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some links between commentary, facts, and thesis Convincing Appropriate to topic Holds reader's interest Adequate balance between fact and commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commentary may be present but not tied to factual data Insufficient use of commentary or too much commentary (essay like) Not engaging Repetitive commentary 	
	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis of information Raises issues to greater whole Smooth and logical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compelling Clearly goes beyond thesis Raises new or related issue for future discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Sense of completion Attempts to go beyond thesis Attempts to look at big picture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion repeats opening or thesis Weak or lacking conclusion Leaves reader hanging 	
S T Y L E	Readability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates unique style Paper is interesting to read Consistently varies sentence structure and length Transitions are varied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops style Some sentence variety Consistent use of transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper reads smoothly Clear progression of argument Attempts originality and sentence variety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progression inconsistent; choppy Style not clearly developed Sentences lack variety or originality Errors distract reader Reader not engaged 	
	Mechanics (Grammar, punctuation, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates excellence in grammar, syntax, and mechanics of writing throughout the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of careful editing and revising Few errors throughout the paper Syntax is good throughout paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of editing and revising Some mechanical errors, but do not interfere with readability Minor problems with grammar or syntax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little or no evidence of editing or revising Many grammar errors Many mechanical errors Poor syntax 	

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Thesis Statement, Parenthetical Citations, Works Cited page and meets Minimum Page Length

