

Research Essay Rubric

	Excellent: exceeds expectations (A to A-)	Good: occasionally exceeds expectations (B+ to B-)	Satisfactory: meets expectations (C+ to C-)	Unsatisfactory: below expectations (D to F)
Rhetorical Knowledge and Awareness	Demonstrates sophisticated understanding and negotiation of genre, purpose, context, and audience; employs sophisticated use of rhetorical strategies and rhetorical appeals, including organizational structure, design choice, and/or data presentation.	Demonstrates solid and consistent understanding and negotiation of genre, purpose, context, and audience; employs appropriate rhetorical strategies and rhetorical appeals, including organizational structure, design choice, and/or data presentation.	Demonstrates adequate understanding and negotiation of genre, purpose, context, and audience; employs adequate rhetorical strategies and rhetorical appeals, including organizational structure, design choice, and/or data presentation.	Demonstrates limited to minimal understanding and negotiation of genre, purpose, context, and audience; employs limited to minimal rhetorical strategies and rhetorical appeals, including organizational structure, design choice, and/or data presentation.
Critical Thinking and Composing	Demonstrates sophisticated knowledge of the subject and/or use of specialized concepts or theories; provides sophisticated thesis and development of ideas in a logical sequence, including complex use of claims, evidence, and analysis; selects, uses, and evaluates primary and secondary research materials skillfully, including sophisticated use of qualitative and quantitative evidence	Demonstrates solid and consistent knowledge of the subject and/or use of specialized concepts or theories; provides strong thesis and development of ideas in a logical sequence, including appropriate use of claims, evidence, and analysis; selects, uses, and evaluates primary and secondary research materials well, including appropriate balance of qualitative and quantitative evidence	Demonstrates knowledge of the subject and/or use of specialized concepts or theories; provides adequate thesis and development of ideas in a logical sequence, including adequate use of claims, evidence, and analysis; selects, uses, and evaluates primary and secondary research materials adequately, including appropriate balance of qualitative and quantitative evidence	Demonstrates limited to minimal knowledge of the subject and/or use of specialized concepts or theories; provides inadequate thesis and development of ideas in a logical sequence, including inadequate use of claims, evidence, and analysis; selects, uses, and evaluates primary and secondary research materials inadequately, including appropriate balance of qualitative and quantitative evidence
Writing Processes	Demonstrates sophisticated flexibility with composing and revision strategies to develop inquiry.	Demonstrates solid and consistent flexibility with revision and composing strategies to develop inquiry.	Demonstrates adequate flexibility with revision and composing strategies to develop inquiry.	Demonstrates limited to minimal flexibility with revision and composing strategies to develop inquiry.
Conventions	Sophisticated control of mechanics, documentation, style, format, medium, language, and tone; error free.	Solid and consistent control of mechanics, documentation, style, format, medium, language, and tone; minimal errors.	Adequate control of mechanics, documentation, style, format, medium, language, and tone; some errors but they do not interfere with readability.	Limited and/or lacking control of mechanics, style, format, medium, language, and tone; too many errors that interfere with readability.