

# Final Research Paper UP Research Writing Rubric

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Your Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 140 points

## Focus

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
Specific <b>argumentative</b> thesis and direction through the entire paper, and the topic fits the length of the assignment. The paper addresses the topic in detail, but not at length.	Readers can understand the main argument, but your paper could be more specific. The controlling idea of the paper helps guide the reader, but your topic could be narrower. The paper goes into too much or too little detail.	There is a main topic, but the paper doesn't always stick to it, and may be too broad in scope. The argument makes broad claims, but not in enough depth to address the issue completely.	There is no clear focal topic for the paper; the paper may wander through ideas. A reader may have to ask you to clarify main ideas. The focus of the paper may be divided, or it may be too broad.

## Content

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
The paper fully explains ideas, using plenty of details and examples. There is a variety of support, and the reasons provided develop the thesis statement and argument.	The main ideas are explained clearly. However, the paper doesn't use enough details to explore the topic. Claims that are made are broad, but are supported by the paper.	Readers can identify the main ideas of the paper. Key points have not been explained, or the paper presents vague or general examples.	The paper has few details to explain your ideas. Ideas may not be well developed, or may be limited. However, not all the required parts of the assignment have been completed.

## Argumentation

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
The paper uses a variety of signal phrases and argumentative structures, including <b>arguments</b> , <b>counterarguments</b> , and <b>rebuttals</b> to support the thesis. The paper presents a complex and thoughtful argument without bias.	The paper makes good use of signal phrases to indicate <b>arguments</b> , <b>counterarguments</b> and <b>rebuttals</b> throughout. The paper avoids bias and presents a fair argument.	The paper has the basic elements of argumentation, including a <b>counterargument</b> and <b>rebuttal</b> . Signal phrases may be limited, but the essence of argument is present.	It is difficult for readers to tell if the paper is making an argument or if it is explaining an idea or opinion. Key elements of argument are lacking or missing entirely.

## Organization

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
It is always easy to follow the organization of your paper. Your introduction and thesis guide the reader into the topic. Your conclusion summarizes your ideas and leaves the reader thinking about the topic.	Your ideas are usually well organized, though there may be one part that doesn't connect well with the rest. You have an introduction and conclusion, but one or both of these are brief or do not keep the reader's attention.	Parts of your paper are organized, but other parts are not. In some parts you jump around from one point to another without a clear connection. Your introduction and conclusion may be too general or too brief.	You do not follow a clear plan in discussing your ideas. A reader finds it difficult to understand the connection between ideas. You may not have an introduction and/or conclusion.

**Research/ Support**

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Low</b>
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
The paper uses a <b>variety of sources</b> that support the argument. Paraphrase, summary and quotations are incorporated into the paper as support for the author's opinions and ideas. Each source is well-connected to the topic and supports a specific point of the argument. There are at least <b>5 credible sources</b> .	The paper uses <b>many</b> sources to support the argument. The paper uses paraphrase and summary, as well as quotations which are connected generally to the paper's ideas. Each source supports the main points of the paper.  There are at least <b>5 credible sources</b> .	The paper uses the <b>minimum</b> number of sources. There are elements of paraphrase, summary and quotation, but the paper may rely too much on one over the others. There is limited interpretation/ explanation for each source as it is included in the paper. There are at least <b>5 credible sources</b> .	The paper doesn't use the required number or sources, or relies too heavily on quotations or paraphrase or summary, instead of using a mix of the three. The sources may not be clearly connected to the paper's topic. There are less than <b>5 credible sources</b> .

**Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling (GPS)**

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Low</b>
20 19 18points	17 16points	15 14points	13 12 11... points
You use a variety of grammatical structures. When you use more complex structures, you may make a few errors. You demonstrate mastery of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Meaning is clear.	You generally use only basic grammatical structures. You may make some errors, especially in verb tense, word order, or word form. However, grammar mistakes do not make meaning unclear. There are occasional errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	You make frequent errors in the basic grammar structures. Grammar mistakes may make some parts of your essay unclear, but a reader can still understand your main ideas. There are frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Meaning is sometimes confusing.	Grammar mistakes are very basic. (For example, you might confuse "he" and "she.") Grammar mistakes make the meaning of important ideas unclear. There is very little mastery of writing conventions. The essay is dominated by errors of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

**APA Formatting**

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Low</b>
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
The paper has all of the elements of APA formatting, with little to no errors. All sources have in-text citations and reference list citations. All headings, cover and reference pages follow APA format.	The paper has the key elements of APA format, with some errors, but they are not distracting to the reader. All sources have in-text citations and reference list citations. All headings, cover and reference pages follow APA format.	The paper has the basics of APA format, but some errors may distract readers. All sources have in-text citations and reference list citations. All headings, cover and reference pages follow APA format.	The paper doesn't appear to follow APA format, or has significant errors in formatting. A cover page or reference page may be missing, or there may be errors in headings.

**Drafts/Improvements**

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Low</b>
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
You have turned in all drafts in a timely fashion, and your final paper includes all drafts for this paper. You have made significant improvement in your paper over time.	You have turned in most of your drafts in on time, and your final paper may be missing a prewrite or an outline. You have made improvements in your paper, but with more work it could have been a stronger draft.	You have turned in drafts late, or your final paper is missing one or more drafts. You made very few changes in your drafts, or did not submit them in a timely manner.	You have not turned in any drafts, or you are missing most if not all of your drafts for your final paper. Your paper has changed very little, if at all.

**\* Any instance of plagiarism will result in a 0.0 grade for this assignment.**

Notes:

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