**Research Essay Rubric**

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| ***Element*** | ***Requirements*** | ***Inadequate*** | ***Developing*** | ***Proficient*** |
| Orienting the Audience | The writer anticipates the audience’s knowledge level on the topic and addresses any gaps that may exist by identifying relevant background information necessary to understand the topic, providing a historical context for the reader (if necessary) and defining complex terms. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Thesis: Statement of Controversy | The text introduces a compelling controversy and makes a claim that is clearly arguable. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Thesis: Specific  Focus | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Structure: General | Essay is organized in a logical way that is meaningful to the reader, utilizing transitions, **headings and subheadings** and includes a conclusion which restates the thesis and reviews the main points presented in the essay. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Structure: Paragraph Level | Every paragraph is organized with the following paragraph structure: main idea, clear transitions, parenthetically cited evidence, sufficient links back to the main idea, and conclusion. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Evidence: General | Text provides significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, data, statistics and/or example(s) that thoroughly develop and explain the topic. Varies signal phrases. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Evidence: Quotes | Quotes include parenthetical citations, are blended into context sentences, introduced, explained and formatted according to MLA guidelines. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Mechanics: | The text presents an engaging, formal and objective tone. The text intentionally uses standard English conventions of usage and mechanics while attending to the norms of the discipline (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.). | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Playing by the rules | Paper is typed, titled, double-spaced, 5-7 pages in length, and follows the requirements of the MLA guidelines according to the Purdue OWL website. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Works Cited | ALL sources are integrated into the essay, using parenthetical citations, are listed in alphabetical order and are properly punctuated according to MLA guidelines. Student used at least 5 scholarly/peer reviewed articles and 10 sources total. | 0-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
| Comments: | | Total points: \_\_\_\_\_\_/100pts | | |