

MLA Research Paper Scoring Rubric

Your final MLA research paper will be scored in accordance with this rubric. Students should strive to earn a score of “3” in each category (12 points in main points sections).

3 2 1 0 - Overall MLA Format: Correctly formatted according to MLA style with no mistakes.

3 2 1 0 - Paper Title: A two part title that includes a creative part, followed by a colon, followed by a statement taken from the thesis statement - centered in two, single spaced lines.

3 2 1 0 – Introduction Section: Generally a page to one and one half pages in length. A properly written introduction leads the reader into the subject and gives them all the necessary background information to appropriately lead to the thesis statement. The introduction section includes the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the topic/issue, and clearly defines the "debate" or opposing viewpoint.

3 2 1 0 – Thesis Statement: In bold print. The thesis meets the four thesis statement tests. It should come at the end of the introduction section.

3 2 1 0 – In Text Citations: All quotes or ideas that are not the student writer's or are not general information, must be "attributed" to the original sources by using in text citations. In text citations can appear in two forms.

3 2 1 0 – Plagiarism Avoidance: If someone or something else said or thought it, then you have to "cite" it. If you copy others work or ideas and pass them off as your own, then you are plagiarizing. Citations and attributing information is the key to avoiding this problem. Please check your Turnitin Originality Report for issues.

3 2 1 0 – Section Titles: Specific and direct titles for each main section of the paper. Centered in one line.

12 8 4 0 – Four to Five Main Points Sections: Generally a page to one and one half pages in length. Open with a simple statement about your main point that the reader will accept. Introduces the reader to the main point and gives appropriate background information. Includes transitions words and phrases. Includes the main point (in bold print). Recognizes opposing viewpoints arguments. Includes discussion about evidence presented. **IN GENERAL FOLLOWS GUIDELINES AND EXAMPLES FROM NUTS AND BOLTS GUIDE WEB SITE.** Other considerations: Create a complex sentence that expands on the first sentence. The reader must accept the second sentence as a natural transition from the first sentence. Useful transition words/phrases to begin the sentence with include: because, although, when, if, sometimes, in order, and after. Clearly state your main point for the paragraph. Connect the main point back to the opening point of the introduction paragraph. Provide concrete examples for your main point that relates to the overall topic. Useful transition words/phrases to begin the sentence with include: for example, for instance, and to illustrate. Moreover, this is a good time to use an "if, then" construction in the sentence. Provide details or further discussion about your example to further illustrate the specific ideas for the reader. A section of discussion / interpretation about your examples - how it proves your topic/point. Create a transition phrase or statement that ties your next thinking to the next section's topic.

3 2 1 0 – Focuses on an important part of a subject, expressed in the thesis statement.

3 2 1 0 – Effectively supports and develops the thesis with facts and details from a variety of sources.

3 2 1 0 – Speaks in a sincere and knowledgeable voice, and shows that the writer is truly interested in the subject.

3 2 1 0 – Explains any unfamiliar terms, and employs a formal level of language.

3 2 1 0 – Sentences flow smoothly from one idea to the next, and show a variation in sentence structure.

3 2 1 0 – Adheres to the rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

3 2 1 0 – Conclusion Section: Generally about one half page in length. This section brings your "argument to a conclusion." In a simple research paper, it should restate the points of your thesis and your thesis. A statement reaffirming your thesis points and thesis. A discussion of the importance of each of the points and how they build to prove your thesis.

3 2 1 0 – Works Cited Section: Includes **ONLY** works/titles that are actually **USED** within your paper. This section begins on a new page and follows the works cited' formatting.