Absolute Ruler: Research Paper Rubric

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|  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Content and Focus** | * Exceptionally clear, focused, interesting thesis.
* Strong, rich supporting details and examples that prove thesis.
* Covers all 4 subtopics of research in-depth
 | * Clear thesis which maintains a consistent focus from beginning to end.
* Specific supporting details are present.
* Covers all 4 subtopics with little depth, or 3 in-depth
 | * Contains thesis but with inconsistent focus.
* Generalized supporting details that prove thesis.
* Covers 2-3 topics with little depth, or 1 topic in depth.
 | * Thesis statement lacks  clarity and focus.
* Inadequate or missing supporting details.
* Covers only 1 topics with little depth.
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| **Organization** | * Strong introduction and  conclusion.
* Consistent and coherent logical progression.
* Uses clear and skillful transitions.
 | * Clear introduction and

 conclusion.* Illustrates some consistency and

 shows some logical  progression.* Uses clear transitions.
 | * Introduction and conclusion is present but not clear
* Show some attempt of

 consistency and order. Paper shows attempt of  transitions between paragraphs. | * Unable to clearly identify

 introduction and conclusion.* Lack of consistency and order.
* Paper shows little or no  attempt of transitions  between paragraphs.
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| **Style** | * + Written in formal language (avoids slang completely).
	+ Elaborate and colorful language.
	+ Consistently strong and varied sentence structure.
	+ Direct quotes support student’s ideas.
	+ Paper written in student’s own words.
 | * + Majority of paper written in formal language.
	+ Language appropriate to topic.
	+ Words convey intended message.
	+ Direct quotes support student’s ideas.
	+ Majority of paper written in student’s own words.
 | * + Some use of formal language recognized; informal language is dominant.
	+ Most language is appropriate to topic.
	+ Able to get vague idea  of message.
	+ Some parts of paper written in student’s own words.
 | * + Paper frequently uses informal language.
* Language is not appropriate to topic.
* Message is unclear.
* Majority of paper is plagiarized.
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| **Sources/Format** | Follows MLA guidelines:* + Uses 3 or more cited sources.
	+ Sources meet the guidelines for types of sources.
	+ All parenthetical documentation is MLA correct (author’s name, pg. #).
	+ Works Cited page is MLA correct.
	+ All researched info is documented.
 | Follows MLA Guidelines with few exceptions:* 1-2 cited sources used.
* Sources meet the guidelines for types of sources.
* Few errors noted in parenthetical documentation
* Majority of Works Cited page is MLA correct.
* Most research info is documented.
 | * Inconsistent use of MLA style guidelines.
* Works Cited page is not understandable
* Majority of parenthetical documentation done incorrectly.
* Random MLA documentation.
* Rarely documents sources.
 | * Fails to follow MLA style

 Guidelines.* No sources cited in works cited page or in text.
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| **Conventions** | Superior editing. Rarely makes errors in the following areas:* Spelling and mechanics.
* Correct usage and grammar.
 | Careful editing. Makes few errors in the following areas:* Spelling and mechanics
* Correct usage and grammar
 |  Some evidence of editing:* Extensive spelling and

 grammatical errors. |  Poor editing:* Spelling and grammatical errors make it difficult to read paper.
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