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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |