

8th Grade Research Paper Rubric

	4 (20 points)	3 (18 points)	2 (16 points)	1 (14 points)
Focus	Thesis is clearly stated or implied and highly engages the reader.	Thesis is clearly stated or implied.	Thesis is not clearly stated or implied.	There is no thesis and no understanding of connection between thesis and related ideas.
Organization	Exhibits logical progression of ideas and/or events and skillfully uses transitions between ideas.	Exhibits logical progression of ideas, although there <i>may</i> be minor weaknesses. Transitions adequately connect ideas.	Exhibits major lapses in the logical progression of ideas, and transitions are inconsistent or ineffective.	Ideas and/or events are presented in a random fashion with little or no connections between ideas.
Support & Elaboration	Demonstrates exceptional selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis within the minimum 2 to 5 page requirement.	Demonstrates sufficient selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis within the minimum 2 to 5 page requirement	Demonstrates insufficient selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis OR paper does not meet the 2 to 5 page requirement.	Lacks supporting information clearly relevant to thesis and its related ideas and paper does not meet minimum page requirements.
Sources	There are a minimum of three sources which are properly cited using correct MLA format. At least one source is directly referenced within the paper.	There are a minimum of three sources which are properly cited using correct MLA format.	Fewer than three sources are used OR sources are not cited using proper MLA format.	Sources are incomplete or non-existent.
Grammar/ Vocabulary	Exhibits strong control of grammar and vocabulary appropriate to 8 th grade.	Exhibits reasonable control of grammar and vocabulary appropriate to 8 th grade.	Exhibits minimal control of grammar and vocabulary appropriate to 8 th grade.	Lacks control of grammar and vocabulary appropriate to 8 th grade.
Points per Category				

Total Points _____/100