

RUBRIC EXAMPLES

RESEARCH PAPER

	BEGINNING The research paper is at a beginning stage.	NOVICE The research paper may show flashes of quality, but could be improved in several ways.	PROFICIENT The research paper is acceptable.	EXEMPLARY The research paper is exemplary.
Content	Piece is lacking information and/or information is inaccurate and irrelevant.	Provides basic information, some of which may be incorrect and/or irrelevant; based on minimal research.	Provides partially complete, accurate, and relevant information; based on adequate research.	Provides complete, accurate, and relevant information; based firmly on extensive and careful research.
Thinking and Communication	Demonstrates little understanding of the topic. Ideas are not expressed clearly or supported by examples, reasons, details, and explanations. No interpretation and analysis of the material.	Demonstrates some understanding of the topic, but with limited analysis and reflection. Ideas are not expressed clearly and examples, reasons, details, and explanations are lacking. Examines the issue from a single perspective.	Demonstrates a general understanding of the topic. Ideas are generally expressed clearly through adequate use of examples, reasons, details, or explanations. Examines the issues from more than one perspective.	Demonstrates in-depth understanding and insight into the issue(s) under discussion, through careful analysis and reflection. Ideas are developed and expressed fully and clearly, using many appropriate examples, reasons, details, or explanations. Examines the issue from three or more perspectives.
Organization, Mechanics, and Vocabulary	The written sections lack organizational devices, such as paragraphs, sections, chapters, and transitions. Numerous errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization. A bibliography or reference section is missing.	Language is copied from another source. Organizational devices, such as paragraphs, sections, chapters, and transitions, are flawed or lacking. Numerous errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization. The bibliography or reference section contains an inadequate number of primary or secondary sources.	The work is written in the author's own words. There are some problems with organizational devices, such as paragraphs, sections, chapters, and transitions. There are several errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization. A bibliography or reference section identifies an adequate number of primary and secondary sources.	All ideas are in the author's own, well-chosen words. Organizational devices, such as paragraphs, sections, chapters, and transitions, have been used effectively. With minor exceptions, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization are correct. A bibliography or reference section identifies a variety of primary and secondary sources.
Illustration	Illustrations do not help the audience understand the content and core message(s).	Visuals are unrelated or offer little support of the work. Graphics, tables, charts, diagrams, pictures, and/or models are mislabeled or irrelevant.	The work is supported by visuals. There is some mislabeling of graphics or design mistakes (e.g., a picture is confusing because it doesn't have a caption).	The work is well supported by carefully illustrated and useful tables, charts, diagrams, pictures, and/or a model—all properly labeled and captioned.
Presentation	The piece is not neat or organized, and it does not include all required elements.	The work is not neat and includes minor flaws or omissions of required elements.	The presentation is good. The overall appearance is generally neat, with a few minor flaws or missing elements.	The work is well presented and includes all required elements. The overall appearance is neat and professional.

"Research Paper" is modified from the Co-nect Student Project Guide, 2002.