**Senior Independent Thesis: Research Paper Rubric**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Requirements:

* Format: header (consistent with selected documentation style), double-spaced, 1” margins, Times New Roman, 12 pt
* Title Page: title, name, Senior Independent Thesis, year
* Thesis statement: approved thesis statement specifically stated in introduction
* Word count: 5,000 words minimum (not including title page or works cited)

Documentation style: Citation style depends on the academic discipline or subject. You will need to consult with your reader to determine what is required in your specific paper. Once you choose a style, you must use it consistently throughout your paper.

* APA (American Psychological Association) is used by Education, Psychology, and Sciences
* MLA (Modern Language Association) style is used by the Humanities
* Chicago/Turabian style is generally used by Business, History, and the Fine Arts

Each category is worth 25 points. Grading criterion per category:

* Effective: 20 - 25 points
* Competent: 14 - 19 points
* Developing: 10 - 14 points
* Poor: 0 - 9 points

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| **Organization & Structure: \_\_\_\_\_/25**- Clear thesis in introduction that outlines arguments- Clear focus (all argument information consistently related to thesis; all information in paragraphs related to topic sentences)- Clear topic sentences- Effective use of transitions- Coordination and subordination of ideas: your syntax clearly indicates the relationship among ideas in sentences | **Writing Style & Mechanics: \_\_\_\_\_/25**Correct grammar and usageAcademic toneAttention to audienceAvoids redundancyExcludes first- or second-person pronounsNarrow and engaging introduction A clear conclusion that states significance or answers “so what” and avoids redundancy |
| **Research Skills: \_\_\_\_\_/25**A minimum of 15 sources citedAll sources are scholarlyAll sources are relevant and timelyUses a range of sources, representing a variety of viewpoints, in a balanced mannerAvoids editorializingFully explored topics, expanded discussionUtilizes synthesis and analysis, not merely exposition (is not a “book report” on various sources, connects ideas) | **Format & Documentation: \_\_\_\_\_/25**Accurate use of documentation styleAll sources cited within paperCorrect formatting on works cited pageWord count minimum metNo plagiarism (no more than 30 percent unoriginal content, including direct quotes; no more than seven unoriginal consecutive words unless directly quoted) |