**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 usage  Academic tone  Attention to audience  Avoids redundancy  Excludes first- or second-person pronouns  Narrow and engaging introduction  A clear conclusion that states significance or answers “so what” and avoids redundancy |
| **Research Skills: \_\_\_\_\_/25**  A minimum of 15 sources cited  All sources are scholarly  All sources are relevant and timely  Uses a range of sources, representing a variety of viewpoints, in a balanced manner  Avoids editorializing  Fully explored topics, expanded discussion  Utilizes synthesis and analysis, not merely exposition (is not a “book report” on various sources, connects ideas) | **Format & Documentation: \_\_\_\_\_/25**  Accurate use of documentation style  All sources cited within paper  Correct formatting on works cited page  Word count minimum met  No plagiarism (no more than 30 percent unoriginal content, including direct quotes; no more than seven unoriginal consecutive words unless directly quoted) |