CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING & LEARNING

Rubric for a long essay or research paper

Possible rubric for a library research paper			
_____Points	Above Expectation (5)	Meets Expectation (4)	Below expectation (3)	Failing (0-1)
Development	Clear thesis statement. Writing builds on the thesis. Ideas are logical, consistent, coherent –and insightful. Precise and robust use of multiple examples.	Clear thesis statement. Writing builds on the thesis and develops ideas that are acceptable and consistent. Uses relevant examples.	Thesis is unfocused or unclear. Written response cannot build on the thesis. Paper lacks development and discusses very basic ideas. Strays from topic.	No thesis. Written response cannot address the prompt or thesis and therefore lacks coherence and logic. Insignificant or inaccurate details are featured.
Quality of Sources	Sources (databases, books, journals) used are specified by the assignment. Sources are selected with care and appropriate to the research topic.	Sources used are specified by the assignment and appropriate to the research topic.	Sources used are not specified by the assignment. Some sources are outside the scope of the assignment.	Sources used are not specified by the assignment or are outside the scope of the assignment.
Value of sources as evidence	Sources are directly used as evidence to support the thesis statement. Overall research represents the ideas provided in the body of the paper. Paper is organized around the sources, and synthesizes research findings into the whole.	Sources are generally used as evidence to support the thesis statement. Overall research represents the ideas provided. Paper is organized around the sources. Some findings may be misrepresented.	Few sources are used as direct evidence and/or seem detached from the thesis statement. Sources do not support the thesis, are off-topic. Findings are misrepresented or incomplete.	Ideas expressed in the paper bear little resemblance to the sources quoted. Sources do not support the thesis, are off-topic, misrepresented and incomplete.
Attribution	All sources are quoted directly or paraphrased with proper attribution.	Most sources are quoted directly or paraphrased with proper attribution.	Paper presents roughly paraphrased ideas and shows struggle with composition (visit to CSULA writing center requested)	Word-for-word plagiarizing of multiple sources, whether quoted in the reference list or not (Failing grade).
Reference list and citation mechanics	Bibliography is formatted in the required citation style (_e.g._ APA, MLA), and is free of mechanical errors. Citations are easy to read and to find.	Bibliography is formatted in the required citation style, but there are missing citation elements and/or minor errors. Citations are easy to read and can be located.	Bibliography is roughly formatted in the required citation style. Missing citations make finding the article(s) difficult.	Citations are confused or incorrectly formatted. Numerous mechanical errors make the citation unclear, difficult to read, and impossible to find.

Reference list and citation	Bibliography is formatted in the required citation	Bibliography is formatted in the required citation	Bibliography is roughly formatted in the	Citations are confused or incorrectly