**Research Essay Grading Form**

| **Element** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic and Main Ideas (Hook, Background Info, Thesis Stmnt) | Does not introduce a topic or main idea, or the topic or main idea must be inferred | Attempts to introduce a topic or main idea | Introduces the topic and main idea(s) to be examined | Effectively introduces the topic and main idea(s) to be examined |
| Organization | Too brief to demonstrate an organizational structure, or no structure is evident | Ineffectively organizes ideas, concepts, and information  | Has an organizational strategy to group information and provide focus, but sometimes connections and distinctions are not clear | Uses an organizational strategy to present information effectively and maintain focus and to make important connections and distinctions |
| Supporting Details/ Evidence (in text citations, works cited page) | Provides minimal information to develop the topic, little or none of which is from sources | Develops topic, sometimes unevenly, with little relevant information ; attempts to write in-text citations and works-cited page | Uses a few pieces of relevant information from sources to develop topic; includes in-text citations and works-cited page | Thoroughly develops the topic with well‐chosen, relevant, and enough facts; extended definitions; concrete details; quotations; includes in-text citations and works-cited page |
| Transition/Connecting Words and phrases |  Struggles to link some ideas and concepts, but cohesion is weak throughout | Attempts to link ideas and concepts, but cohesion is inconsistent | Uses some transitions to connect and clarify relationships among ideas, but relationships may not always be clear | Uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion, to link major sections of the text, and to clarify the relationship among ideas |
| Language | Uses vague, ambiguous, inexact, or repetitive language | Uses limited precise language and/or domain‐specific vocabulary to manage the topic  | Uses some precise language and domain‐specific vocabulary to explain the topic | Effectively uses precise language and domain‐specific vocabulary appropriate to the audience and complexity of the topic |
| Formal Style & Objective Tone | Lacks appropriate formal style and tone | Attempts to establish formal style and objective tone but struggles to maintain them | Maintains a formal style and objective tone, for the most part | Establishes and maintains a formal style and an objective tone |
| Conclusion | Provides a minimal or no concluding statement or section |  Provides a weak concluding statement or section | Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the ideas presented | Provides a strong concluding statement or section that logically follows from the ideas presented |