

Research Essay Grading Rubric

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A+

- Argument is clear, convincing, logically organized, and original
- Research is extensive and sophisticated; paper demonstrates a thorough appreciation of the relevant historiography
- Primary evidence is used consistently, thoroughly, and effectively
- Structural problems / typographical errors are few and far between
- Paper is the right length

A

- Argument is clear, convincing, logically organized, and somewhat original
- Research is extensive and sophisticated; paper demonstrates an appreciation of the relevant historiography
- Primary evidence is used effectively
- Structural problems / typographical errors are insignificant
- Paper is the right length (or perhaps only slightly too long)

B

- Argument is clear, convincing, and logically organized
- Research moves noticeably beyond that of the annotated bibliography; paper demonstrates signs of an understanding of the historiography
- Primary evidence is integrated, but only somewhat effectively
- Structural problems / typographical errors are generally insignificant
- Paper is about the right length (or perhaps only slightly too long)

C

- Argument is somewhat flawed
- Research is only slightly better than that used for the annotated bibliography
- Primary evidence is not used effectively, if used much at all; textbooks are used intermittently as reliable sources
- Structural problems / typographical errors at times prevent a clear understanding of the argument
- Paper is too short / long

D

- Argument is flawed
- Research is no better than it was for the annotated bibliography
- Primary evidence is not generally used; textbooks are used regularly as reliable sources
- Structural problems / typographical errors generally prevent a clear understanding of the argument
- Paper is far too short / long