

RESEARCH PAPER

In general, the research paper is graded on what a student demonstrates about his/her:

- ✓ research skills,
- ✓ ability to think critically about a topic and the sources necessary to study and limit that topic,
- ✓ ability to combine information and ideas into a focused, organized, supported argument,
- ✓ ability to write a grammatical, stylistic, mechanically correct essay, and
- ✓ ability to document and list sources accurately and usefully.

Specially, the research paper is graded on:

1st paper will be graded for mechanics.
Revised paper will be graded for all elements.

- ★ **title page** (clarity, usefulness, accuracy) (not paginated)
- ★ **abstract** (clarity, usefulness) (not paginated)
- ★ **title** (usefulness, accuracy)
- ★ **introduction** (specificity, clarity, appeal)
- ★ **thesis** (clarity, initial presentation, use throughout paper, thoughtfulness, accuracy)
- ★ **arguments/evidence** (breadth, logic, quality, use)
- ★ **organization** (clarity, logic, consistency, within paragraphs, in overall paper)
- ★ **focus**
- ★ **mechanics**
 - **sentence structure**
 - **punctuation** (usage, spacing)
 - **voice** (use of passive)
 - **person** (avoidance of first and second)
 - **tense** (logic, consistency)
 - **spelling**
 - **proofreading**
 - **pagination**
 - **Chicago Manual**
- ★ **quotations** (appropriateness, logic, ellipses and brackets, identification of authors, punctuation, transition into text)
- ★ **research** (depth, breadth)
- ★ **exploitation of sources** (in text, in note)
- ★ **documentation** (giving credit for ideas, facts, words)
- ★ **documentation style (Chicago Manual; library's print/non-print guides)**
 - **reference notes** (first citations, subsequent citations)
 - **content/explanatory notes** (usefulness, accuracy, form) (*at least two required*)
 - **format** (footnotes)
 - **placement of superscript in text**
- ★ **bibliography**
 - 1st paper: works *consulted*
 - revised paper: works *cited* (i.e., in text and notes)
- ★ **appendices** (if used)
- ★ **conclusion** (thoughtfulness, appeal, appropriateness, usefulness)
- ★ **Honor Pledge -- signed** (your choice: on title page, last page of text, blank page at end of paper, etc.)