

Persuasive Research Paper Rubric

	6	5	4	3	2	1
Heading ____ / 6	Follows all MLA guidelines; Title is original, interesting, and fitting; Header is formatted properly and used consistently	Follows all MLA guidelines; Title is fitting; Header is formatted properly and used consistently	Follows most MLA guidelines; Title is functional; Header is formatted with some errors and used consistently	Follows some MLA guidelines; Title is functional, but uninteresting; Header is formatted with errors	Follows few MLA guidelines; Title is uninteresting; Header is used incorrectly	Does not follow any MLA guidelines; Title is uninteresting; Header is used incorrectly
Introductory Paragraph ____ / 6	Clever attention-getter is used; topic is introduced with details; some specific examples are cleverly provided; thesis statement is clear	Attention-getter is used; topic is introduced; some specific examples are cleverly provided; thesis statement is clear	Attention-getter is attempted; topic is introduced; specific examples are mentioned; thesis statement is clear	Attention-getter is poorly attempted; topic is introduced; specific examples are briefly mentioned; thesis statement is a bit foggy	A weak attention-getter is used; topic is introduced; specific examples are vague thesis statement is present but awkwardly placed	A very weak attention-getter is used; topic is introduced; no specific examples are provided; thesis statement is unclear
Thesis Statement ____ / 4			Follows the S+D+3R Method; cleverly stated; flows smoothly; is not too long nor too short	Follows the S+D+3R Method; cleverly stated; a bit choppy; a bit too long	Attempts to follow the S+D+3R Method; needs more creativity; too choppy; too short or too long	Does not follow the S+D+3R Method; uninteresting; too choppy to understand; far too short or too long
Body Paragraphs ____ / 6	Clearly follow organization provided in thesis; contain one topic per paragraph; use appropriate amounts of detail	Follow organization provided in thesis; contain one topic per paragraph; use enough details to support topic	Attempt to follow organization provided in thesis; usually contain one topic per paragraph; details are useful, but could be more specific	Struggle with following organization provided in thesis; more than 1 topic per paragraph; details need to be more specific	Fail to follow organization provided in thesis; more than 3 topics per paragraph; details need to be directly related to topic	Contain little, if any, organization; multiple topics per paragraph; details are either useless or too vague
Conclusion Paragraph ____ / 6	Clearly summarizes important info.; re-states thesis in different words; strongly emphasizes persuasive element; contains call-to-action	Clearly summarizes important info.; attempts to re-state thesis in diff. words; attempts towards persuasion are obvious; contains call-to-action	Summarizes some info.; attempts to re-state thesis in diff. words; persuasive element is clear, but could be stronger; call-to-action is present, but vague	Summarizes too little or too much info.; struggles with re-stating thesis in diff. words; persuasive element could be stronger; call-to-action is weak	Attempts to summarize are vague; thesis is re-stated, but in the same words; persuasive element is very weak; call-to-action is very weak	Does not summarize; doesn't re-state thesis; persuasive element is very weak; no call-to-action is present
Parenthetical Citations ____ / 10		Appear at the end of each body paragraph; appear after direct quotations; are properly formatted	Appear at the end of each body paragraph; appear after direct quotations; are almost properly formatted	Usually appear at the end of each body paragraph; appear after direct quotations; are almost properly formatted	Occasionally appear in the paper; appear after direct quotations; are almost properly formatted	Seldom appear in paper; seldom appear after direct quotations; are incorrectly formatted

Works Cited Sources ____ / 12				Contains all 3 required sources	Contains only 2 required sources	Contains only 1 required source
Works Cited Formatting ____ / 12	Heading, header, and title are perfectly formatted; each entry is perfectly formatted; double spacing and hanging indent are perfect	Heading, header, & title are perfectly formatted; each entry is formatted with 1 common error throughout; double spacing and hanging indents are almost perfect	Heading, header, & title are almost perfectly formatted; each entry is formatted with 2 common errors throughout; double spacing and hanging indents are nearly correct	attempts are made to format Heading, header, & title; each entry is formatted with 3 common errors throughout; double spacing and hanging indents are nearly correct	Heading, header, & title are incorrectly formatted; each entry is formatted with 4 common errors throughout; double spacing and hanging indents are partially incorrect	Heading, header, & title are incorrectly formatted; entries are incorrectly formatted; double spacing and hanging indents are incorrect

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Ideas ____ / 12	Paper is complete; 3 reasons have 3+ specific examples that provide interesting supporting details; each body paragraph clearly focuses on 1 specific example and provides very specific details	Paper is complete; 3 reasons have 3+ specific examples to provide supporting details; each body paragraph focuses on 1 specific example while providing specific details	Paper is partially complete; 2 of 3 reasons have 3+ specific examples to provide supporting details; each body paragraph focuses on 1 specific example and provides some details	Paper is confusing; 2 of 3 reasons have 3+ specific examples to provide supporting details; each body paragraph focuses on more than 1 specific example and provides some details	Paper is very confusing; 1 of 3 reasons have 3 specific examples to provide supporting details; each body paragraph focuses on multiple specific examples and provides few details	Paper is incomplete; no specific examples are present; body paragraphs focus on multiple ideas and provide very few details
Organization ____ / 10		Topic of the paper is clear; paper is organized very clearly by the 3 reasons and specific examples	Topic of the paper is clear; attempts are made to organize the paper by the 3 reasons and specific examples	Topic of the paper is clear; organization is weak and has trouble following the 3 reasons and specific examples	Topic of the paper is clear; organization is weak and does not follow the 3 reasons and specific examples	Topic of the paper is unclear; there is no clear organization to the paper
Voice ____ / 10		Persuasive element is very clear and strong; writer sounds interested and enthusiastic about topic	Persuasive element is clear; writer occasionally sounds interested and enthusiastic about topic	Persuasive element could have been stronger; writer struggles to sound interested and enthusiastic about topic	Persuasive element is weak; writer has difficulty sounding interested and enthusiastic about topic	Persuasive element is nearly in-existent; writer sounds uninterested and disconnected from the topic
Word Choice ____ / 10		Word choice is very specific; the writer's excellent word choice creates a vivid picture of the topic	Specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers create clear images of the topic	More specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers would paint a clearer picture of the topic	Better words are needed; words are overused or too general to paint a clear picture	The writer has not considered word choice or has used words incorrectly
Sentence Fluency ____ / 10		Sentences are skillfully written to hold the reader's interest; transitions help the sentences flow together smoothly	Sentences show variety and are easy to understand; transitions occasionally increase flow and smoothness of the paper	A better variety of sentences is needed; sentences do not flow smoothly; transitions are uncommon or ineffective	Many incomplete or short sentences make the writing choppy; transitions are not present	Few sentences are written well; help is needed
Conventions ____ / 10		The paper has no errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation	Paper has a few minor errors in punctuation, grammar, or spelling	The paper has several errors.	Numerous errors make the paper hard to read and confusing	Help is needed to find errors and make corrections
Presentation ____ / 6				3-5 pages; double spaced; Times New Roman; 12 point font	Accurately follows some formatting requirements	Follows few format requirements with limited accuracy

Total _____ / 130