

Name: _____

American Literature Argumentative Research Paper Rubric

	Excellent 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2	Beginning 1	No evidence of skill
<p>Introduction and thesis: The intro begins with an effective hook/attention getter that leads into detailed information on the topic. The thesis statement clearly states the writer's position on a debatable topic and issues a call to action through argument based on evidence.</p>					
<p>Conclusion: Begins with a transition; effectively re-states thesis & presents a one or two sentence summary of main body points; provides a general warning of not following the claim and/or how the community will benefit from following it.</p>					
<p>Evidence: the argument develops several claims and uses compelling evidence to support the writer's position. Reliable sources are cited throughout the body of the paper and information from multiple sources is synthesized to build the student's argument. The student does not over-rely on his/her sources.</p>					
<p>Analysis: the paper convincingly argues the position by providing relevant background information, uses valid examples, interprets evidence, acknowledges any counter-claims with a rebuttal, and develops the writer's own ideas.</p>					
<p>Language: the argumentative research paper has a strong, engaging voice. It uses language, style, and tone appropriate to its purpose and incorporates a wide range of varied sentence patterns to create a sophisticated style. Effective leads are used to help fluently blend cited material into the student's argument.</p>					
<p>Organization: the argument consistently supports the thesis statement without irrelevant information. Body paragraphs begin with insightful topic sentences and are skillfully brought to an end with closing sentences. Transitional words and phrases are used appropriately to aid fluency and organization.</p>					
<p>Writing Conventions: the student writer demonstrates control of language with essentially no errors in spelling, usage, or punctuation. All cited and paraphrased information is cited correctly in MLA format.</p>					

<p>Chunking: Effectively used throughout body of paper; CD sentences incorporate T + LI + CD + cite; CMs smoothly transition from CD while extending the fact mentioned in CD; transitions are varied, never tiresome or distracting; TS and CS are appropriate and engaging.</p>					
<p>Guidelines: the paper is 3-5 full pages of text, written in MLA format, and includes the required minimum of sources (five from approved databases one of which is a visual, AND one primary source) all double spaced in 11 or 12 font size. An annotated works cited is included at the end of the paper and is in correct MLA format as modeled in class.</p>					
<p>Revision: the student demonstrates evidence of thoughtful revision through the steps of the writing process (pre-writing, drafting, editing/revising). Turnitin.com was clearly used as a tool for improving the final paper.</p>					

Additional Comments:

<p>Final Score: _____ / 100</p>
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