

College Writing
Grading Rubric for Research Papers (Adapted from Kevin Seidel's Rubric)

	A	B	C or lower
Introduction	- The introduction provides relevant and sufficient context for the main claim (thesis)	- The introduction provides some relevant context for the main claim (thesis)	- The introduction doesn't provide a relevant context for the main claim (thesis)
Main Claim (Thesis)	- The main claim at the end of the intro is contestable, not obvious, and supportable by evidence	- The main claim is poorly phrased or doesn't meet one of the three criteria: not obvious, contestable, supportable by evidence	- The main claim is poorly phrased and doesn't meet two or more of the criteria: not obvious, contestable, supportable by evidence
Body Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragraphs consistently begin or end with a clearly stated point (reason) that supports the main claim. - The body of the paragraph contains sufficient evidence and analysis of that evidence to support the point. - Paragraphs are thoughtfully arranged with smooth transitions between each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some paragraphs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contain too many points, or - leave the point off the page, or - provide too little evidence and/or analysis, or - provide evidence or analysis irrelevant to the point. - are not carefully arranged - begin or end with abrupt transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most paragraphs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contain too many points, or - leave the point off the page, or - provide too little evidence and/or analysis, or - provide evidence or analysis irrelevant to the point. - not carefully arranged - begin or end with abrupt transitions
Acknowledgment and Response	- At least one paragraph effectively acknowledges and responds to contrary reasons or evidence in your paper	- At least one paragraph attempts to acknowledge and respond to contrary reasons or evidence in your paper	- The paper doesn't have any attempt to acknowledge and respond to contrary reasons or evidence
Integrating Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All sources are clearly cited in the paper and listed in the references, and - All sources are clearly prefaced; quoted, paraphrased or summarized; and analyzed in the body of the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some sources are not clearly cited in the paper and listed in the references, or - Some sources are not clearly prefaced; quoted, paraphrased or summarized; and analyzed in the body of the essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most sources are not clearly cited in the paper and listed in the references, and - Most sources are not clearly prefaced; quoted, paraphrased or summarized; or analyzed in the body of the essay
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conclusion does both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restate or rephrase the main claim, and - develop the consequences mentioned in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conclusion does one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restate or rephrase the main claim, - develop the consequences mentioned in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conclusion does none of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restate or rephrase the main claim, - develop the consequences mentioned in the

	introduction; answers the “So what?” question	introduction; answers the “So what?” question	introduction; answers the “So what?” question
Style	- Individual sentences communicate ideas clearly. Sentence structures are varied.	- Individual sentences sometimes do not communicate ideas clearly. Sentence structures are not varied.	- Individual sentences consistently do not communicate ideas clearly. Sentence structures are not varied.
APA	- APA style is used very well in the in-text citations, in the list of references, and in formatting	- The paper has only a few mistakes in APA style in the in-text citations, in the list of references, or in formatting.	- The paper has many mistakes in APA style in the in-text citations, in the list of references, or in formatting

Instructors began to use this rubric in college writing during the 2023-24 school year.