

Rubric for Final Research Paper

GSR – 79038 - Data Mining
Hunter College – Spring 2020

Criteria	Exemplary	Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Research Question and Argument	The writer's central research question and argument are readily apparent to the reader.	The writing has a clear research question and argument but may sometimes digress from it.	The central research question and argument are not consistently clear throughout the paper.	The research question and argument are not clearly identified.
Evidence	Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information that clearly supports a central purpose or argument and shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights.	Information provides reasonable support for a central purpose or argument and displays evidence of a basic analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains some insights.	Information supports a central purpose or argument at times. Analysis is basic or general. Reader gains few insights.	Analysis is vague or not evident. Reader is confused or may be misinformed.
Models	Models are sufficiently explained. Outcome variables, and explanatory variables are correctly identified.	Models are sufficiently explained. Outcome variables, and explanatory variables are correctly identified	Models are explained. Outcome variables, and explanatory variables are correctly identified	Models are presented without any explanation. Outcome variables, and explanatory variables are misidentified.
Organization	The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the central purpose or argument. They are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning.	In general, the writing is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fail to make sense together. The reader is fairly clear about what writer intends.	The writing is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest.

Quality of writing	The tone is consistently professional and appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is generally professional. For the most part, it is appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is not consistently professional or appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is unprofessional. It is not appropriate for an academic research paper.
Sentence Structure	Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and structure. They flow smoothly from one to another.	Sentences are well-phrased and there is some variety in length and structure. The flow from sentence to sentence is generally smooth.	Some sentences are awkwardly constructed so that the reader is occasionally distracted.	Errors in sentence structure are frequent enough to be a major distraction to the reader.
Word Choice	Word choice is consistently precise and accurate.	Word choice is generally good. The writer often goes beyond the generic word to find one more precise and effective.	Word choice is merely adequate, and the range of words is limited. Some words are used inappropriately.	Many words are used inappropriately, confusing the reader.
Length	Paper is the number of pages specified in the assignment.	Paper is the number of pages specified in the assignment.	Paper is the number of pages specified in the assignment.	Paper has more or fewer pages than specified in the assignment.
References	Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources is given to support claims. Attribution is clear and fairly represented.	Professionally legitimate sources that support claims are generally present and attribution is, for the most part, clear and fairly represented.	Although attributions are occasionally given, many statements seem unsubstantiated. The reader is confused about the source of information and ideas.	References are seldom cited to support statements.
Quality of References	References are primarily peer-reviewed professional journals or other approved sources (e.g., government documents, agency manuals, ...). The reader is confident that the information and ideas can be trusted.	Although most of the references are professionally legitimate, a few are questionable (e.g., trade books, internet sources, popular magazines, ...). The reader is uncertain of the reliability of some of the sources.	Most of the references are from sources that are not peer-reviewed and have uncertain reliability. The reader doubts the accuracy of much of the material presented.	There are virtually no sources that are professionally reliable. The reader seriously doubts the value of the material and stops reading.
Citation	APA or MLA format is used accurately and consistently in	APA format is used with minor errors.	There are frequent errors in APA format.	Format of the document is not recognizable as APA.

	the paper and on the "References" page.			
Appendix	Extra figures and graphs are well identified. They support the main argument but are not necessarily essential to the main paper.	Extra figures and graphs are well identified. They support the main argument but are not necessarily essential to the main paper.	Extra figures and graphs are identified, but not explained.	Extra figures and graphs do not support the main argument.