

Union Grove Elementary School
Research Report Rubric
Grade 8

Name: _____

Date: _____ Title: _____

CATEGORY	ADVAN. (4)	PROF. (3)	BASIC (2)	MIN. (1)
IDEAS:				
Research	Writing reflects high-quality research.	Writing reflects average-level research.	Writing reflects minimal research.	Writing reflects very little research.
Paragraphs	All paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Most paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Some paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Very few paragraphs are supported with appropriate facts and details.
Attention grabber	Interesting and unique – grabs the reader’s attention right away.	Appropriate – gets the reader’s attention	An attention grabber is used.	An attention grabber is not used.
Introduction	Introduction is clear and reflects what the entire paper is about.	Introduction is mostly clear and reflects what the entire paper is about.	Introduction is unclear and does not reflect what the paper is about.	An introduction is not used.
Conclusion	Conclusion is effective and accurately sums up the piece.	Conclusion is somewhat effective and accurately sums up the piece.	Conclusion is not effective. It does not sum up the piece.	A conclusion is not used.
ORGANIZATION:				
Writing reflects outline (3)	Writing follows outline exactly.	Writing usually follows outline.	Writing sometimes follows outline	No outline is included
Has a clear beginning, middle, and end	Strong introduction and conclusion. Details follow a clear order.	Introduction or conclusion may be weak.	Introduction or conclusion may be missing	Both introduction and conclusion are missing.
Each paragraph contains a clear topic sentence	Topic sentences are evident. It is very clear what each paragraph will be about.	Topic sentences exist, but not all make it evident what the paragraph will be about.	Several topic sentences are missing and several are weak.	Most paragraphs do not contain topic sentences.
VOICE:				
Writer is knowledgeable in topic	The writer uses words and phrases that accurately explain and thoroughly describe the topic.	The paper would benefit from more accurate descriptions and explanations.	The paper is lacking in explanation and description.	The writer does not seem knowledgeable in the topic.
Writer avoids use of personal opinion or experience	The paper is completely void of personal opinion and experience.	The paper contains some personal opinion or experience.	The paper contains a great deal of either personal opinion or experience.	The paper is loaded with personal opinion and experience.
Writer has used his/her own words in the writing	The paper contains language that is original and unique.	Most parts of the paper contain language that is original and unique.	Some parts of the paper contain language that is original and unique.	The writer has plagiarized.

WORD CHOICE:

Writing is formal (no use of slang, personal experience, or opinion)	Writing is formal throughout the entire paper.	Writing is formal throughout most of the paper.	Writing is formal in some parts of the paper.	Writing is formal in very few parts of the paper.
Writer avoids use of personal pronouns (I, you, we, etc.)	Writer avoids personal pronouns throughout the entire paper.	Writer avoids personal pronouns throughout most of the paper.	Writer avoids personal pronouns in some parts of the paper.	The paper is loaded with personal pronouns.
Unfamiliar terms are defined and explained	All unfamiliar terms are defined and thoroughly explained for the reader.	Most unfamiliar terms are defined and explained for the reader.	Some unfamiliar terms are defined and explained for the reader.	No unfamiliar terms are defined or explained for the reader.
Verb choice is clear and concise	Verbs are precise, active, and descriptive.	The writer could have used more exact, precise verbs.	Verb choice is limited and repetitive.	Verb choice is vague or uninteresting. It may be confusing.

SENTENCE FLUENCY:

Writer uses transition words to help sentences and paragraphs flow into one another.	The writing flows very smoothly from one paragraph and subtopic to the next.	The research report would benefit from more transitions.	Transition sentences are strongly lacking.	The writing is choppy and hard to follow.
Uses a variety of sentences: simple, compound, and complex	Sentence length and structure vary.	The research report would benefit from greater sentence variety.	The research report lacks sentence variety.	Sentences are short, unclear, or repetitive.

CONVENTIONS:

Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct (5)	Throughout the entire piece	Throughout most of the piece	Throughout some of the piece	Never
In-text citations (at least 3) are used correctly (3)	In-text citations are appropriate and accurate.	In-text citations are mostly appropriate and accurate.	In-text citations are rarely appropriate or accurate.	In-text citations are not used.

PRESENTATION:

Follows MLA format (2)	Completely correct	Mostly correct	Nearly correct	Missing
Bibliography	Completely correct	Mostly Correct	Nearly correct	Missing
Title Page	Completely correct	Mostly correct	Nearly correct	Missing
Includes header with name and page number	Completely correct	Mostly correct	Nearly correct	Missing
Uses at least 5 appropriate resources	The list of sources is complete and accurate.	The list of sources may be incomplete.	The list of sources is incomplete.	There is no list of sources.
Follows proper format	Font, layout, and spacing are all correct.	One of the components is incorrect.	Two of the components are incorrect.	All components are incorrect.

TEACHER COMMENTS: