

Paper Grading Rubric

The ability to write clearly, precisely, and concisely is a primary skill for most professional careers. Worth (1990) revealed that 90% of college graduates rated *effective writing* as greatly important for their work, regardless of their career. “No one is impressed by careless grammatical and typographical errors. Failure to attend to such details raises concerns about conscientiousness and reliability... You should also carefully attend to your use of vocabulary. Large doses of unusual or obscure vocabulary will only distract readers and cause them to doubt your writing ability” (Bottoms & Nysse, 1999, p. 24). Scientific writing, as done by social scientists, differs from creative and interpretive writing done in other fields (Light, 2001). Your ability to be an effective scientific writer depends on understanding the differences among these various forms of writing. The purpose of this rubric is to help you learn the expectations for professional writing in the social sciences.

	≤ 13 points	14-16 points	17-19 points	20-22 points	23-25 points	Score
Academic Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning is impeded by many serious mistakes in grammar, usage and sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than satisfactory control of language Contains significant mistakes in grammar, usage and sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactory language control Grammar, stylistic variety, accepted conventions of writing Many minor flaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid language control Grammar, stylistic variety, accepted conventions of writing Few minor flaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superior language control Grammar, stylistic variety, accepted conventions of writing A couple minor flaws 	_____
Documentation and Formatting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not follow APA-style including margins, font size line spacing, header/page number, text justification Reference list does not match text citations Does not use APA style for quotes, & in-text citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many errors of APA-style including margins, font size line spacing, header/page number, text justification Reference list does not match text citations Many errors for quotes, & in-text citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several errors of APA-style including margins, font size line spacing, header/page number, text justification Reference matches text citations Several errors for quotes, & in-text citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few errors of APA-style including margins, font size line spacing, header/page number, text justification Reference matches text citations Few errors for quotes, & in-text citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A couple errors of APA-style including margins, font size line spacing, header/page number, text justification Reference matches text citations A couple errors for quotes, & in-text citations 	_____
Content: What did you include? What did you leave out?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < ___ sources or not all are cited Most references are NOT from journals or reliable sources Missing major sections and significant information Did not mention theory Did not identify limitations, application, future research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ ___ sources or not all are cited Most references are from journals or reliable sources Contains most major sections and most of basic information Mentioned theory but did not attempt analysis Identified only superficial limitations, application, future research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ ___ sources; all are cited Most references are from journals or reliable sources Contains all major sections and basic information in each section Attempted theoretical analysis in discussion Identified relevant and non-superficial limitations, application, future research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ ___ sources; all are cited All references are from journals or reliable sources Contains all major sections; basic information in method, results; greater depth of understanding is attempted in intro and discussion Some depth of thought for theoretical analysis Limitations, application, future research include some justification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ ___ sources; all are cited All references are from journals or reliable sources Contains all major sections; basic information in method, results; greater depth of understanding characterizes intro and discussion Theoretical analysis is sophisticated Limitations, application, future research include detailed analysis 	_____
Synthesis: How did you help your reader make sense of the literature & your research?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no flow of ideas Did not integrate, synthesize literature in introduction (i.e., each study is its own paragraph) Relied heavily on quotes and did not connect them to content Did not relate the findings to the literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow of ideas is not logical No successful integration, synthesis of literature in introduction (i.e., each study is its own paragraph) Relied heavily on quotes and attempted to connect to content Attempted to related the findings to the literature; there is no analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical flow of ideas but tends to be formulaic Demonstrates basic ability to integrate and synthesize literature in introduction Relied on quotes for content Attempted to relate findings to literature; analysis is at the surface level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to tell a story Demonstrates some sophistication in integrating, synthesizing literature in introduction Used quotes sparingly, connected to content Successfully relates findings to literature; analysis shows some superficiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively tells interesting story Sophisticated integration, synthesis of literature, includes appropriate analysis in introduction Used quotes sparingly and connected to content Demonstrates depth of thought relating findings to literature; analysis sophisticated 	_____
					TOTAL:	_____