Research Essay Rubric

Format (6 points, or 6%)

1. There is a complete typed heading with only the student’s name, the instructor’s name, the name of

the course, and the due date. (Each highlighted item is missing.) \_\_\_\_/1

1. The information in the heading appears in the correct order. \_\_\_\_/1
2. The heading appears in the correct place on the first page and only on that page. \_\_\_\_/1
3. In the upper right-hand corner of each page, there is only the student’s typed last name followed by

the correct typed page number. \_\_\_\_/1

1. There is a creative and typed title for the essay. \_\_\_\_/1
2. The contents of the essay are double-spaced. \_\_\_\_/1

Introduction (6 points, or 6%)

1. It identifies the complete subject of the essay. \_\_\_\_/2
2. It is of the appropriate length. \_\_\_\_/2
3. It has an effectively placed thesis sentence. \_\_\_\_/2

Thesis Sentence (9 points, or 9%)

1. It states the complete subject of the essay. \_\_\_\_/3
2. It states a single point about the subject. \_\_\_\_/3
3. It is stated in only one or two complete sentences. \_\_\_\_/3

Developmental Paragraphs (31 points, or 31%)

1. Each developmental paragraph has a topic sentence. \_\_\_\_/3

A developmental paragraph with the words “no topic sentence” next to it indicates a paragraph without a topic sentence.

1. Each topic sentence is effectively placed. \_\_\_\_/3

A developmental paragraph with the words “misplaced topic sentence” next to it has an ineffectively placed topic sentence.

1. Each topic sentence states the complete subject of its respective paragraph. \_\_\_\_/3

A developmental paragraph with the words “incomplete topic sentence” next to it has a topic sentence that does not identity the complete subject.

1. The details in each one are accurate and relevant. \_\_\_\_/3
2. The details in each one are specific. \_\_\_\_/3
3. The details are taken from the required credible source(s) identified by the instructor. \_\_\_\_/3
4. The details are taken from credible source(s) selected by the student. \_\_\_\_/3
5. The ideas within each one are expressed clearly. \_\_\_\_/3
6. The ideas within each one are organized effectively. \_\_\_\_/3
7. The ideas within each one are unified. \_\_\_\_/2
8. The ideas within each one have effective coherence. \_\_\_\_/2

Conclusion (4 points, or 4%)

1. It concludes the topic effectively. \_\_\_\_/2
2. It is of the appropriate length. \_\_\_\_/2

Mechanics (15 points, or 15%)

1. Grammar \_\_\_\_/5

Consult section \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on page(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in *A Pocket Style Manual* for information about

1. Punctuation \_\_\_\_/5

Consult section \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on page(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in *A Pocket Style Manual* for information about

1. Spelling (1 point deducted for each misspelled word) \_\_\_\_/5

MLA In-Text Citations (16 points, or 16%)

1. Each sentence needing an in-text citation has one. (Each blue highlighted sentence indicates

one missing such a citation.) \_\_\_\_/4

1. Each in-text citation contains the correct information. (Each green highlighted citation

indicates one with incorrect information.) \_\_\_\_/4

1. The writer avoids use of in-text citations where they are not needed. (Each pink highlighted citation

indicates one that is not needed.) \_\_\_\_/4

1. Each in-text citation has a corresponding MLA Works Cited entry. \_\_\_\_/4

MLA Works Cited Page (13 points, or 13%)

1. In the upper right-hand corner, it has the student’s typed surname followed by the correct typed

page number. \_\_\_\_/1

1. It begins with the correct typed title. \_\_\_\_/1
2. The entries are alphabetized. \_\_\_\_/1
3. The contents of each entry are double-spaced. \_\_\_\_/1
4. The second and subsequent lines of each entry are indented. \_\_\_\_/1
5. Each entry is written correctly. (An entry highlighted in yellow is not.) \_\_\_\_/4
6. There are no missing entries. (1 point deducted for each missing entry) \_\_\_\_/4

Total points \_\_\_\_/100

Late points (if any) \_\_\_\_\_/10

Essay grade \_\_\_\_/100