

Science Research Essay – Scoring Rubric

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Partially Proficient</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Distinguished</i>
Ideas	<p>Not enough background information provided for the experiment. Sources are limited or unclear and writer does not explain research.</p> <p>Writer does not use enough scientific terminology.</p>	<p>Introduction contains only brief if any background information about the topic. Author uses sources, but may not seek to explain difficult information.</p> <p>Writer uses some scientific terms, but only defines some of them.</p>	<p>Introduction does include some background information about the topic. Author uses multiple sources and explains some difficult information.</p> <p>Writer uses 4-6 key scientific terms and defines them.</p>	<p>The introduction gives sufficient background to the experiment and explains why the researched information is relevant or important to the reader. Author uses a variety of sources to convey information. Writer effectively and frequently explains difficult information.</p> <p>Writer uses 4-6 key scientific terms and defines them in a meaningful way.</p>
Organization	<p>Organization is not apparent. Sentences and paragraphs seem to run together and do not relate. Does not use transitions.</p>	<p>Essay contains a short introduction; body paragraphs run together or are not separated properly and in a logical way (many facts are out of place.) Not enough transitions used to explain how sentences are related to each other.</p>	<p>Essay contains an introduction. Body paragraphs make logical sense with only one or two facts out of place. Transitions are used to move from one point to another and occasionally explain how ideas relate.</p>	<p>Author has put thought into how their essay should be organized. Contains an introduction. Body paragraphs are organized in a logical way and topic sentences clearly and thoroughly describe what is in the paragraph. Transitions used to move from one point to another and to discuss how ideas relate to one another.</p>
Word Choice/Voice	<p>Author uses language that is too informal for scientific research.</p>	<p>Author occasionally slips into informal language (use of personal pronouns such as “I,” “me,” “you,” or “We”) or transitions.</p>	<p>Author uses formal, scientific language throughout the essay.</p>	
Conventions and Presentation	<p>MLA format not followed. Frequent errors make the essay difficult to read. Author only occasionally cites sources used. Works cited page does not follow MLA or is left out.</p>	<p>MLA format is attempted. There are a number of grammatical errors and some that may confuse the reader. Author attempted to properly cite most sources and attempted a works cited page.</p>	<p>MLA format is used. Grammar and punctuation errors are seen in a few sentences. They do not distract the reader in those areas. Author attempted to properly cite all sources and create a works cited page.</p>	<p>MLA format is used. The essay is error free. Author indicates when facts and ideas are from other sources. Works cited page is formatted correctly.</p>

Grade: