

Grading Rubric - Research Paper - Fellowship Program

CATEGORY	4 POINTS - Exceptional	3 POINTS - Good	2 POINTS - Fair	1 POINT - Poor
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grabs interest • States topic and thesis clearly • Previews entire structure of paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairly interesting • States topic and thesis clearly • References paper structure somewhat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States topic or thesis with little interest or clarity • Minimal reference to paper structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States topic and thesis with no interest or clarity • No reference to paper structure
Quality of Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains several sources • Sources are reliable and relevant • All sources and methods logically support thesis • References cited appropriately and correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains some sources • Sources are reliable and relevant • Sources and methods somewhat support thesis • References cited correctly sometimes, but not always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains few sources • Sources aren't always reliable or relevant • Sources and methods somewhat support thesis • References cited correctly sometimes, but not always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains no reliable, relevant sources or methods that support thesis • References not cited correctly
Content Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong logic that always supports thesis in all paragraphs • Examples, diction, and general content all illustrate expertise and critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound logic that supports thesis in most paragraphs • Examples, diction, and general content mostly illustrate expertise and critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic somewhat supports thesis in some paragraphs • Examples, diction, and general content illustrate intermediate understanding without critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited logic that does not support thesis throughout • Examples, diction, and general content illustrate basic understanding without critical thinking
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent summary of thesis and arguments • Impactful concluding statements, usually motivating action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic summary of thesis and arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic but incomplete summary of thesis and arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal or missing summary of thesis or arguments
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always relevant and useful to supporting thesis • Free of grammatical or spelling errors • Logical flow with smooth transitions • Polished and professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly relevant and useful, but with some digressions or ambiguities • Only minor grammatical or spelling errors • Logical flow, but with some rocky transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several digressions or ambiguities • Several ideas require clarification • Many grammatical or spelling errors • Challenging to read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole sections are confusing, off-topic, or unnecessary • Grammatical and spelling errors abound • No apparent organization