

### **Research Paper Rubric**

	<b>Originality</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Writing</b>
<b>Excellent (A-A+)</b>	Essay is original, contribution to understanding of topic	Student shows engagement with primary and secondary source materials, critical analysis of the significance of question posed, using evidence to organize strong persuasive argument, shows excellent grasp of secondary sources and engagement with other historical interpretations	Highly organized and engaging writing, no technical errors (grammar and spelling), proper footnotes and bibliography
<b>Very Good (A-)</b>	May contain some original ideas but are not developed further	Clear and coherent thesis but may need to push argument further, well-written, essay is more narrative-based than analytical, engagement with primary and secondary source materials, excellent grasp of secondary sources,	Well-organized, well-written, no technical errors (grammar and spelling), proper footnotes and bibliography
<b>Good (B- to B+)</b>	Ideas are well-developed but are not original	Clear thesis and argument though may not be completely coherent, more narrative-based than analytical, good use of sources that meets the minimum with no interpretation problems	Well-written though some parts may be unclear, Some technical errors (grammar and spelling) though not enough to obscure the argument, some errors in footnotes and bibliography
<b>Fair (C- to C+)</b>	Ideas are developed but are not original	Adequate argument but underdeveloped, descriptive writing that does not really analyze, some use of sources but may have some misunderstanding of their context, lack of organizational structure,	Writing is unclear and difficult to understand, many technical errors (grammar and spelling), many errors in footnotes and bibliography
<b>Poor (D or Fail)</b>	Ideas are not original	No clear thesis, failure to use sources with inadequate interpretation	Poorly written, significant technical errors (grammar and spelling), failure to cite