

Research Paper Checklist

Thesis or Claim

- ☐ clear
- ☐ too broad or too narrow
- ☐ demonstrates understanding of depth/complexity of issue

Organization

- ☐ logical introduction
- ☐ paragraphs supports thesis statement
- ☐ stayed on topic
- ☐ logical conclusion

Content

- ☐ presents solid argument
- ☐ provides sufficient support for ideas
- ☐ provides thorough discussion of topic
- ☐ evidence of critical thinking skills

Sources

- ☐ appropriate (timely/expert/scholarly)
- ☐ sufficient number
- ☐ good use of summaries and paraphrases
- ☐ good use of direct quotations

Documentation

- ☐ consistent documentation style (MLA, APA, CMS etc))

Citations: in the body of the paper (brief)

- ☐ accurate documentation form
- ☐ accurate placement of citation
- ☐ sufficient documentation

Work Cited/ Reference: at the end of the paper (full reference)

- ☐ accurate documentation form
- ☐ complete information provided

Grammar, Punctuation, and Mechanics

- ☐ correct sentence structure (no run-ons, fragments)
- ☐ correct grammar (agreement, tense consistency etc.)
- ☐ correct punctuation (commas, apostrophes, colons, semi-colons, quotation marks)
- ☐ correct spelling, capitalization, abbreviations