

Research Paper--Thesis and Outline

Rubric Descriptions

	Excellent 1+ = 100; 1 = 97-99; 1- = 93-96; 2+ = 90-92	Good 2 = 86-89; 2- = 83-85; 3+ = 80-82	Average 3 = 76-79; 3- = 73-75; 4+ = 70-72	Needs Much Improvement 4 = 66-69; 4- = 63-65; 5+ = 60-62	Not Acceptable 5 = 50-59; 5- = 40-49; 6 = 20-39
Thesis Statement	Thesis is extremely clear and reflects in-depth understanding of the subject.	Thesis is clear and reflects clear understanding of the topic.	Thesis expresses a clear and coherent idea.	Thesis does not communicate a clear idea.	Thesis is nonsensical or unrelated to the subject reflected by the main points of the outline.
	Thesis clearly shows the relationship between main ideas and the writer's opinion about the subject, and gives the paper strong structural direction.	Thesis shows the relationship between main ideas and the writer's opinion about the subject, and establishes general structure of the paper.	Thesis is overly general; does not establish the relationship between main ideas and the writer's opinion about the subject.	The basic organization of the ideas is not clearly established in the thesis.	Thesis simply lists ideas.
	The specific subject of the paper is extremely clear and expressed in a sophisticated manner.	The specific subject of the paper is clearly expressed.	The subject of the paper is too general.	The specific subject of the paper is unclear.	The specific subject of the paper is not stated.
	The writer expresses a sophisticated and in-depth opinion about the subject; what the writer will prove about the subject is extremely clear.	The writer expresses an in-depth opinion about the subject; what will be proven about the subject is clear.	The writer expresses an opinion about the subject.	The writer's opinion about the subject is unclear.	Thesis is nonsensical or unrelated to the subject reflected by the main points of the outline.
	Thesis is written as a clear, complex, focused and correct sentence.	Thesis is grammatically correct, but is phrased awkwardly; perhaps uses a semicolon to join together ideas.	Thesis contains some minor grammatical errors.	Thesis is a fragment, run-on, or comma splice.	Thesis is incoherent.
Outline	The major points of the paper are definitely and precisely articulated.	The major points of the paper are clearly stated.	Not all the major points of the paper are clearly stated.	Difficult to understand the major points of the paper.	Outline does not include enough major points to prove the thesis.
	Every major point clearly and effectively elaborates a part of the thesis.	All major points relate directly to the thesis.	Most major points relate to the thesis.	Several major points seem to not be related to the thesis.	Major points seem to address different ideas than the thesis.
	Major points clearly and effectively sync with all ideas included in the thesis.	All ideas outlined in the thesis are included in major points.	One small part of the thesis has no elaboration under the major points.	There is a major discrepancy between the ideas expressed in the thesis and the points outlined.	The main points do not match the thesis.
	Each major point has a wealth of details/examples to support it.	Each major point has enough examples/details to support it.	Most major points have enough examples/details to support them.	Significant lack of supporting information for major points.	Outline does not include supporting information for major points.
	Supporting examples/details are clear, sophisticated, and insightfully chosen; reveal in-depth understanding of the topic.	All examples/details are directly related to the major point they support; reveal a solid understanding of the topic.	Most examples/details are clearly related to the major point they support; demonstrate only a basic understanding of the topic.	Writer does not stay focused on the topic; examples are too general; reveal limited knowledge or understanding of the topic.	Information does not relate to the topic; writer misinterprets examples/details; writer seems to not understand the topic.
	Argument is extremely clear and logical; organization of ideas is very effective.	Argument is clear and logical; organization of ideas is effective.	Argument is sometimes unclear or illogical.	Argument is often unclear or illogical.	Sequence of ideas is very confusing; no apparent connection between ideas.
	The MLA outline format makes it extremely easy to see the relationships between ideas and supporting information.	The MLA outline format shows the relationships between ideas and supporting information.	The outline format is occasionally unclear or inappropriate; does not always clearly show the relationships between ideas and supporting information.	The outline format is very confusing; makes it very difficult to understand the relationships between ideas and supporting information.	Information is simply listed on the page, without any indication of structural relevance.
	All examples/details include a citation of the source of the information.	Most examples/details include a citation of the source of the information	Some examples/details include a citation of the source of the information.	Only 1-2 examples include citations of sources.	Sources of information are not included in the outline.