

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory	Feedback
Research Question	Thoughtful, clear, focused, concise, complex, and arguable. Well-developed and supports a particular researchable thesis	Provides a path for the research process. Establishes specific researchable path	Provides a line of inquiry but lacks the direction needed for specific, clear, and focused research	Lacking any foundational questions related to research and inquiry	
Use of Information	Extensive use of multiple credible sources to support findings, data collection, and extending knowledge in a particular area	Exhibits the use of basic information resources to support research findings	Some knowledge of basic information and academic support but lacks overall understanding of credible sources	No credible academic sources to support research	
Interpreting and synthesizing	Accurate and useful analysis and synthesis of information that expands knowledge in academic research	Consistent interpretation of information and data to support academic conclusions	Lacking in connecting ideas and data to sources of information relevant to a sound academic conclusion	No indication that data has been accurately interpreted to formulate a research conclusion	
Communication and presentation	Clear and effective communication of the research findings and inquiry in an academic area	Communicates ideas and supports researchable conclusions to a specific audience	Provides information about a specific research topic but lacks clarity, focus, and/or development to support a conclusion	Minimal information and lacks any focus or support	
Conclusion and overall assessment	Excellent summary of information that reflects a clear understanding of inquiry and academic research methods	Proficient summary of information with a clear conclusion. An understanding of inquiry and basic research	Minimal proficiency in presenting academic research. Lacking in comprehensive conclusions and credibility	No clear understanding of academic research and inquiry. No thoughtful conclusions or intention to expand knowledge	