

PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER: SCORING GUIDE

CATEGORY	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	ALMOST MEETS EXPECTATIONS	PARTIALLY MEETS EXPECTATIONS	ALMOST DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS
Introduction / Thesis Statement	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>
Conclusion	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>
Argument Development	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>
Organization	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>
Source Use and Integration	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>
Parenthetical Documentation (use and format)	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>
Works Cited Page	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>

TOTAL POINTS: _____ / **85** **GRADE:** _____ **MLA FORMAT?** **Yes** **No**
(minus up to 5 points)

- Essay submitted _____ days late (- _____ %)
- Essay cannot be verified as authentic—possible plagiarism or blatant misuse of sources: penalty: _____
- Essay exceeds / does not meet the minimum page requirement: total points deducted: _____

GRAMMAR: *(-1 for each circle checked)*

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> sentence fragments | <input type="radio"/> pronoun-antecedent agreement | <input type="radio"/> verb-tense sequence | <input type="radio"/> faulty parallelism |
| <input type="radio"/> run-on sentences | <input type="radio"/> commas-misused/missing | <input type="radio"/> punctuation-misused/missing | <input type="radio"/> spelling (typos) |
| <input type="radio"/> subject-verb agreement | <input type="radio"/> sentence clarity | <input type="radio"/> diction- repetitious / inappropriate | <input type="radio"/> not in active voice |

PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER: CHECK-LIST

Before you submit your persuasive research paper, please initial next to each of the items as personal acknowledgment of your completion of these components.

Introduction:

_____ My introduction is engaging and effectively introduces my topic to the reader.

_____ My thesis statement clearly and concisely states my central argument.

Body:

_____ My argument is developed in a logical sequence.

_____ I have proven my thesis with strong supporting evidence.

_____ I have transitioned effectively on a paragraph-to-paragraph level and on a sentence-to-sentence level.

_____ I have included information that is both relevant and necessary.

_____ I did not overuse my sources.

Conclusion:

_____ My conclusion is not simply a summary/restatement of what I've already said.

_____ My conclusion elaborates on the significance of my findings in some way.

Source Use and Format:

_____ I have supported my argument with **documented** proof and evidence.

_____ I have used a combination of quotes and paraphrased information in my paper.

_____ All of my citations are accurate and in correct format.

I have initialed all of the components on this page because, to my knowledge, I have met the requirements for the persuasive research paper.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER: SCORING GUIDE EXPLANATION

What is an “Introduction/Thesis Statement” that meets expectations?

An effective introduction is engaging, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper. It starts off generally (and creatively) and then eases the reader into the topic of the paper, eventually ending with the thesis statement (argument). The thesis statement clearly and concisely states the paper’s purpose in a single sentence that is engaging and thought-provoking.

What is a “Conclusion” that meets expectations?

The conclusion allows you to have the final say on the issues you have raised in your paper, to summarize your thoughts, to demonstrate the importance of your ideas, and to propel your reader to a new view of the subject. It is also your opportunity to make a good final impression and to end on a positive note. Your conclusion can go beyond the confines of the assignment. The conclusion pushes beyond the boundaries of the prompt and allows you to consider broader issues, make new connections, and elaborate on the significance of your findings. It is not simply a summary or restatement of what you’ve already said.

What is “Argument Development” that meets expectations?

Once you have taken a particular stance on an issue, provided supporting evidence for that stance, and structured the points in a meaningful and coherent way, you then need to critically examine the logic of your argument or proposition. In order for an argument to be successful, it has to be logically coherent. That is, the argument you are putting forward must be sound, and the conclusions you draw must derive from your propositions and the evidence you have put forward.

For each step in the defense of your argument, you will need to provide sufficient *evidence* and an *analysis* of that evidence. No matter what evidence you use to support your argument, you also need to analyze the evidence—that is, explain clearly to your readers exactly how the evidence you have offered supports your argument. If you merely string together a series of assertions or facts, expecting that your reader will be able to see the connection to your central point, you are sidestepping your responsibility to answer the question of why your thesis is valid or plausible. After you have constructed your argument and written a draft of your paper, you can test the strength of your ideas by imagining a reader looking over your shoulder and asking “Why should I believe what I’m reading?”

PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER: SCORING GUIDE EXPLANATION

What is “Organization” that meets expectations?

Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the pattern, so long as it fits the central idea. Organizational structure can be based on comparison-contrast, deductive logic, point-by-point analysis, development of a central theme, or any of a dozen other identifiable patterns. When the organization is strong, the piece begins meaningfully and creates in the writer a sense of anticipation that is, ultimately, systematically fulfilled. Events proceed logically; information is given to the reader in the right doses at the right times so that the reader never loses interest. Connections are strong, which is another way of saying that bridges from one idea to the next hold up. The piece closes with a sense of resolution, tying up loose ends, bringing things to closure, answering important questions while still leaving the reader something to think about without presenting new information.

What is “Source Use and Integration” that meets expectations?

Effective source use and integration involves using appropriate information at appropriate times to back up your argument. Consider yourself the “expert” on your topic—do not let your sources take over your paper! This research paper is based on your argument NOT your sources’ arguments. Additionally, every piece of information you put in your paper should have a purpose. If you put in information for the sake of putting in information (and haven’t really thought about how it fits into your argument) then your paper will be turned into a summary of sources. As a reader, I want to hear your voice, your words, your argument, with occasional help from your sources.

What is “Parenthetical Documentation” that meets expectations?

Usage of parenthetical documentation is essential in authenticating your paper. Every direct quote must have a citation after it. Paraphrased information that comes from one source (and that you’ve seen in just that one source) must have a citation after it. The only time you do not need to cite information is when it is information you’ve seen in multiple sources and that you cannot pinpoint to any one source. Failure to follow these rules will result in serious penalties as it is considered plagiarism and will be handled accordingly.

Proper format of parenthetical documentation is also important. Please use your *Write for College* books to determine the correct formatting procedures to use based on the source you are citing.

Remember: any source that appears in parentheses in your paper must be present on your works cited page!