Undergraduate Research Paper Rubric

Name_____

Undergraduate research is becoming more important in higher education as evidence is accumulating that clear, inquiry-based learning, scholarship, and creative accomplishments can and do foster effective, high levels of student learning. This curricular innovation includes identifying a concrete investigative problem, carrying out the project, and sharing findings with peers. The following standards describe effective research papers.

Standards	5 - 4 Exemplary	3 - 2 Satisfactory	1-0 Unacceptable	Score	Weight	Total Score
Abstract	Clearly states problem and question to be resolved; clearly summarizes method, results, and conclusions	Summarizes problem, method, results, and conclusions but lacks some details	Is vague about the problem; does not provide a summary of the whole project		X 2	
Introduction	Provides background research into the topic and summarizes important findings from the review of the literature; describes problem to be solved; justifies the study; explains the significance of the problem to an audience of non-specialists	Provides background research into the topic and describes the problem to be solved	Provides background research into the topic but does not describe the problem to be solved; insufficient or nonexistent explanation of details to non-specialists		X 1	
Discussion	Addresses the topic with clarity; organizes and synthesizes information; and draws conclusions	Addresses the topic; lacks substantive conclusions; sometimes digresses from topic of focus	Presents little to no clarity in formulating conclusions and/or organization		X 2	
Summary	Presents a logical explanation for findings; presents clear recommendations and/or implications for future research	Presents a logical explanation for findings	Does not adequately explain findings		X 2	
Mechanics and documentation	Is free or almost free of errors of grammar, spelling, and writing mechanics; appropriately documents sources	Has errors but they don't represent a major distraction; documents sources	Has errors that obscure meaning of content or add confusion; neglects important sources or documents few to no resources		X 1	

Reviewer_____   Grand Total _____