

Rubric for Research Writing				
	1	2	3	4
Organization of Ideas: Forming Paragraphs	Beginning writers scatter their ideas like a shotgun blast. They put their sentences down in whatever order they come into their head.	Intermediate writers gather their ideas into categories with a topic sentence for each paragraph. Statements within each paragraph are related to the topic sentence. Intermediate writers may need to develop their ideas more.	Advanced writers gather their ideas into carefully differentiated categories. The topic sentence for each paragraph is clear and complete. Statements within each paragraph clearly support the topic sentence and clearly develop the writer's ideas with facts, definitions, details, examples, quotations, or other information.	Expert writers use compelling topic sentences. Statements within each paragraph develop their ideas thoroughly yet concisely. Expert writers use quotations to provide convincing evidence in support of their claims, and they add the proper citation for each quotation.
Organization of Ideas: Beginning, Middle, End	Beginning writers scramble their ideas. They put their paragraphs down in whatever order they come into their head.	Intermediate writers organize their ideas. They introduce their topic and put their paragraphs into a reasonable order. They make a concluding statement.	Advanced writers give readers a clear sense of beginning, middle, and end. The beginning has a hook, the middle flows logically, and the concluding statement ties it all together.	Expert writers have a thesis or theme—something they want the reader to believe, feel, know, or understand. In order to organize their arguments they consider different alternatives and determine the best for the particular piece: cause and effect, classification, priority ranking, compare and contrast, chronology. They end with a powerful appeal to the reader.
Follows conventions	Multiple problems on several conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spelling • grammar • punctuation and capitalization • complete sentences (no run-ons or fragments) • consistent tenses • no passive • no use of 1st or 2nd person pronouns 	Still working on some conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spelling • grammar • punctuation and capitalization • complete sentences (no run-ons or fragments) • consistent tenses • no passive • no use of 1st or 2nd person pronouns 	Follows most conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spelling • grammar • punctuation and capitalization • complete sentences (no run-ons or fragments) • consistent tenses • no passive • no use of 1st or 2nd person pronouns 	Virtually flawless conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spelling • grammar • punctuation and capitalization • complete sentences (no run-ons or fragments) • consistent tenses • no passive • no use of 1st or 2nd person pronouns
For all written presentations (must use Word)	Little effort made to follow format guidelines.	Follows most format guidelines (-2 or 3).	Follows virtually all format guidelines (-1).	Follows all format guidelines (-0).