

Term Paper Checklist

Here is what I will look for in grading your term paper:

Title (2 points)

- ✓ Do you have an informative Title that clearly indicates the focus of your paper?

Abstract (3 points)

- ✓ Do you have a 150-word abstract that represents a brief summary of your question, your answer, information presented in support of your answer, and your conclusion.

Introduction (18 points)

- ✓ Do you have focus on a specific question and on a proposed answer to that question, have you started your paper with a clear statement of them, and is this focus maintained throughout the paper?
- ✓ Have you summarized key aspects of the current debate and controversy that surround your question?
- ✓ Have you presented a reasonable introduction to your topic, with background information, statistics, etc., to "set the stage"?

Review of Literature (72 points)

- ✓ Have you presented a review of relevant literature that is clear and in a reasonable amount of detail?
- ✓ In your review of literature, have you clearly identified the references you are discussing?
- ✓ Have you included an appropriate emphasis on research?
- ✓ Have you included presentation of at least two specific original research studies from journals that are relevant to your topic?
- ✓ Have you included details of those studies' purpose, method, and results?
- ✓ Is your review well-organized thematically and does it flow logically?

Analysis (15 points)

- ✓ Have you critically analyzed the information you have presented to identify similarities and/or differences among your various sources?
- ✓ For the research you presented, have you critically analyzed it in terms of any methodological concerns?
- ✓ Have you identified any weaknesses or limitations in the evidence and arguments you have presented?
- ✓ Have you considered other possible ways of understanding the information you have presented, any counter-arguments?

Conclusion and Discussion (15 points)

- ✓ Have you presented a clear statement of your conclusions?
- ✓ Are your conclusions justified by the information ("evidence") presented and analyzed?
- ✓ Have you offered suggestions for future research that might shed more light on your question?
- ✓ Have you discussed the implications of why your question and answer matter?

References (15 points)

- ✓ Have you used an appropriate number of new references?
- ✓ Are your references of good quality?
- ✓ Have you correctly cited your sources in text of paper (authors' last names and year)?
- ✓ Have you included a proper listing of your References, with all required information, in proper APA style?

Quality of Thinking and Writing (10 points)

- ✓ Have you demonstrated an appreciation for the distinction between evidence-based reasoning and opinion?
- ✓ Have you demonstrated a thoughtful appreciation for the complexities of the issues you have examined?
- ✓ Is the paper entirely in your own words?
- ✓ Is your paper the appropriate length (based on counting words)?
- ✓ Have you written and proofread the paper carefully, avoiding Common Writing Errors?