Junior Research Paper Evaluation Criteria

1. **Mechanics (Technical Quality):** Correct format, notes and bibliography (5% of grade)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Minimally Acceptable</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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   Comments:

   \[ x 1 = _____ \]

2. **Topic and Sources:** Workable topic with appropriate sources (10%)

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   Comments:

   \[ x 2 = _____ \]

3. **Introduction (with Thesis):** Draws the reader in, sets the context for the paper, states the thesis (15%)

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   Comments:

   \[ x 3 = _____ \]

4. **Main Body**
   a. **Organization:** Paragraphs support thesis in a logical, coherent way (15%)

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   Comments:

   \[ x 3 = _____ \]

   **Subtotal from Front = _____**
b. **Quality of Research**: Quality and use of sources, appropriate citations and quotation (15%)

3 -------- 3.5 -------- 3.75 -------- 4 -------- 4.25 -------- 4.5-------- 4.75-------- 5

Unacceptable
(Very weak, little evidence of research)

Minimally Acceptable
(Adequate research, some inappropriate sources)

Strong

Excellent
(Strong sources, evidence of thorough research)

**Comments:**

\[ x \times 3 = ____ \]

c. **Interpretation**: Explain significance of research to support the thesis, addresses objections (15%)

3 -------- 3.5 -------- 3.75 -------- 4 -------- 4.25 -------- 4.5-------- 4.75-------- 5

Unacceptable
(No interpretation)

Minimally Acceptable
(Interpretation supports thesis, but has weaknesses)

Strong

Excellent
(Sound historical interpretation)

**Comments:**

\[ x \times 3 = ____ \]

5. **Conclusion**: Summarizes the argument and significance of the paper (the “so what” factor) (10%)

3 -------- 3.5 -------- 3.75 -------- 4 -------- 4.25 -------- 4.5-------- 4.75-------- 5

Unacceptable
(No conclusion)

Minimally Acceptable
(Conclusion general, some points not well supported)

Strong

Excellent
(Conclusion well supported, significance is clear)

**Comments:**

\[ x \times 2 = ____ \]

6. **Clarity of Expression/Thought**: Paper is well written (15%)

3 -------- 3.5 -------- 3.75 -------- 4 -------- 4.25 -------- 4.5-------- 4.75-------- 5

Unacceptable
(Poor Writing, problems with word choice)

Minimally Acceptable
(Occasional weaknesses, grammatical errors)

Strong

Excellent
(Well written, engaging)

**Comments:**

\[ x \times 3 = ____ \]

**Subtotal from Front = ____**

**Subtotal from Back = ____**

**Total Points/Percentage = ____ / 100**

*In order to satisfy the Junior Research Paper requirement, the student must receive a score of 80% or greater from at least two out of the three faculty readers.*