Research Paper Rubric – Intermediate Language Skills B

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| Category | **Level 3: Exceeds Objectives (5 pts)** | **Level 2: Meets Objectives (3 pts)** | **Level 1: Doesn’t Meet Objectives (1pt)** |
| **Purpose and Content** | More than 5 pages long.  Topic is neither too broad nor too narrow.  Information that is not commonly known.  Citations for direct quotations, little-known facts, and others’ ideas.  All writing, other than citations, is original work.  All content is true and accurate. | 3-4 pages long.  Topic is a bit broad bot not too narrow.  Some information that is not commonly known, but there are some well-known facts.  Writer has tried to consider the audience and provided explanations of new terms.  Mostly includes citations for direct quotations, little-known facts, and others’ ideas.  Content seems to be true and accurate. | Fewer than 3 pages long.  Topic is too broad or too narrow.  Most of information is commonly known.  Writer may not have considered the audience nor provided explanations of new terms.  May not include citations for direct quotations, little-known facts, and others’ ideas.  Content may not be true and accurate. |
| **Structure and Organization** | Writer took notes and created a formal outline.  Structure of the report follows the outline.  Report starts with an attention-getting hook.  There is a thesis statement present.  All topics are related to the thesis, and each is introduced in a logical order.  Each paragraph has a topic sentence and all sentences within the paragraph relate to the topic sentence.  Clear and effective transitions between paragraphs and ideas.  There is a strong conclusion that restates the thesis in a new way or leaves the reader with an interesting idea to consider. | Writer took notes and created a formal outline.  Structure of the report mostly follows the outline.  Report starts with an attention-getting hook.  There is a thesis statement present.  Most of the topics are related to the thesis, and most are introduced in a logical order.  Each paragraph has a topic sentence and most of the sentences within the paragraph relate to the topic sentence.  There are transitions between most paragraphs and ideas.  There is a conclusion that restates the thesis. | Writer may not have taken notes and created a formal outline.  Structure of the report may or may not follow the outline.  Report may or may not start with an attention-getting hook.  There may not be a thesis statement present.  Some of the topics are related to the thesis, and may or may not be introduced in a logical order.  Paragraphs may lack a topic sentence and sentences within the paragraph may or may not relate to the topic.  There are few or no transitions between most paragraphs and ideas.  There may be no conclusion, or the conclusion may not be an effective summation. |
| **Language and Word Choice** | The essay has a consistent, objective tone.  The writer uses formal language and writes in the third-person point of view.  The ideas are expressed in clear and direct language.  Words are vivid, precise, and accurate. | The essay has a mostly consistent, objective tone.  The writer uses mostly formal language and writes mostly in the third-person point of view.  Most ideas are expressed in clear and direct language.  Most words are vivid, precise, and accurate. | The essay may not have a consistent, objective tone.  The writer may not use formal language and may not write in the third-person point of view.  Many ideas are not expressed in clear and direct language.  Words are not vivid, precise, nor accurate. |
| **Grammar and Mechanics** | The writer starts a new paragraph, correctly indented, for each new topic.  Every sentence is complete and punctuated correctly.  There are no errors in spelling, capitalization, or grammar.  All quotations are punctuated correctly and include the exact words of the speaker or source.  All citations within the text are in the proper format, as are all citations in the Works Cited page.  The pages of the report are numbered.  The report has a title that is properly capitalized. | The writer starts a new paragraph, correctly indented, for each new topic.  Most sentences are complete and punctuated correctly.  There are few errors in spelling, capitalization, or grammar.  Most quotations are punctuated correctly and include the exact words of the speaker or source.  Most citations within the text are in the proper format, as are most citations in the Works Cited page.  The pages of the report are numbered.  The report has a title that is properly capitalized. | Paragraphs may not be correctly indented or there may be no evidence of paragraphs.  Few sentences are complete and punctuated correctly.  There are many errors in spelling, capitalization, or grammar.  Few quotations are punctuated correctly and include the exact words of the speaker or source.  Few citations within the text are in the proper format, as are few citations in the Works Cited page.  The pages of the report may not be numbered.  The report may lack a title or it may not be properly capitalized.  Errors interfere with a reader’s understanding. |

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