

Social Studies Research Paper Rubric Outline

I. Introduction

- Clearly states the research question or thesis
- Provides background context
- Outlines paper structure

II. Research & Content

- Demonstrates thorough research
- Presents relevant evidence and examples
- Information is accurate and well-documented

III. Analysis & Critical Thinking

- Analysis is insightful and logical
- Arguments are well-supported
- Demonstrates understanding of social studies concepts

IV. Organization & Structure

- Clear and logical flow
- Well-structured paragraphs
- Transitions between sections are smooth

V. Use of Sources

- Uses a variety of credible sources
- Proper citation format
- Avoids plagiarism

VI. Writing Quality

- Clear and concise language
- Minimal grammar and spelling errors
- Appropriate academic tone

VII. Conclusion

- Restates thesis or research question
- Summarizes main findings
- Provides closing thoughts or implications

Criteria	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Introduction	Clear, engaging, contextualizes topic	States topic, some context	Unclear or missing introduction
Research & Content	Thorough, relevant, well-cited	Some detail or minor errors	Limited, unsupported, inaccurate

Analysis & Critical Thinking	Insightful, logical, well-supported	Some analysis, needs more support	Lacks depth, unsupported
Organization & Structure	Logical, clear, well-connected	Some organization, minor issues	Poorly organized, hard to follow
Use of Sources	Varied, credible, properly cited	Some credible sources, minor errors	Few, unreliable, poorly cited
Writing Quality	Clear, minimal errors, academic tone	Some mistakes, mostly clear	Frequent errors, lacks clarity
Conclusion	Strong summary, clear closing	Basic summary, limited impact	Weak or missing conclusion