

# Research Paper Rubric

Science				
	4—Above Standard	3—Meets Standard	2—Below Standard	1--Unacceptable
Research and citations	The student provides at least one citation in each paragraph.	The student provides citations for 60% of their paragraphs, but some of the paper is based on opinion	The student provides some citations, but most of the paper is based on student opinion.	The paper is totally based on opinion and not researched evidence.
Consistency	All of the information presented in the paper is consistent with the stated thesis.	There are a few inconsistencies with the thesis in the information presented.	There are several major inconsistencies. The research paper defeats its own thesis in places with conflicting information.	The paper has no consistency or connection to the stated thesis.
Presentation of Scientific Evidence	The student presents clear scientific information that supports their thesis in all 3 areas (see outline, section 3)	The student presents clear scientific information that supports their thesis in 2/3 areas (see outline, section 3)	The student presents clear scientific information that supports their thesis in 1/3 areas (see outline, section 3)	The student presents no scientific information that supports their thesis in any of the 3 areas (see outline, section 3)
Body Paragraphs	Every paragraph of the research paper relates to the thesis	Most of the paragraphs are related to the thesis	Some of the paragraphs are related to the thesis	None of the paragraphs are related to the thesis. The paper is totally off-topic.
Readability	The research paper is clearly written and easy to understand.	The research paper has minor grammatical errors that don't affect the overall readability of the paper.	The research paper is difficult to follow for anyone who does not teach the assigned content. (I.e. I can tell what you meant, but most people wouldn't be able to)	The research paper is so difficult to read that even a teacher has difficulty understanding what you were trying to say.

Science Grade: \_\_\_\_ x 7 = \_\_\_\_/100

Max points=140/100

Plagiarized = 0 credit. Redo for 80% credit.

\*Plagiarism=If you copied and pasted anywhere in your paper

\*Plagiarism=If you didn't cite your sources in your paper.

\*Plagiarism=If you only changed a few words around in sentences written by other authors.

\*Plagiarism=If you can't explain every thought you wrote in your own paper.

**Plagiarism is illegal and therefore you receive no credit at all for work which is plagiarized, per school policy.**

By signing below, we acknowledge the following statements:

1. We understand that this assignment will be graded based solely on the provided rubric. There is no “wrong” position to take that will result in a reduction of points.
2. An alternate assignment may be requested in writing by emailing the teacher:  
[gilsonnn@fortmillschools.org](mailto:gilsonnn@fortmillschools.org)
3. A provided source and position list do not cover all belief or perspectives. If your child wishes to present a viewpoint not covered in this assignment, you may suggest additional sources or perspectives to be included. Parents are encouraged to be an active part of this assignment through suggesting additional resources to their children, and discussing family values and beliefs. Parents are the primary educators of their children.
4. It remains solely the student responsibility to write and present the content of this research assignment.
5. Plagiarism is illegal, and no work will be given any credit in the gradebook if plagiarism is proven.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

6. We will show the Ken Ham (Creationist) and Bill Nye (Evolutionist) debate in class, moderated by CNN (February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014). (Link to video: <https://youtu.be/wvO3zJaNBjs>) Students will be responsible for citing this as a source in their research paper (and therefore taking notes from material presented that supports their position), but in the interest of being respectful and fair to all perspectives, the teacher will not add any commentary or comprehension assignments to this video assignment. This video directly addresses SC Science Standards **8.S.1A.7 & 8.E.6A.4**

**Please circle one of the following:**

I consent to my child viewing this video in class

I do not consent to my child viewing this video in class, and request an alternate assignment be allowed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

### Alternate Assignment research topics:

Suggested sources will not be provided for students who choose alternate assignments. Since they will not watch the debate video on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, they will have two additional days to work on finding their own sources. They will be expected to submit a source list to the teacher, so that the teacher can ensure that they have found appropriate resources to research the assignment:

1. Write a research paper which explains the ways in which Newton’s 3 Laws of Motion impact modern Engineering.
2. Write an argumentative research paper which weights the benefits and costs of past, current, and future space programs.

### TOPIC:

- I am requesting that my child complete this research paper on \_\_\_\_\_
- I will allow my child to choose their own research topic for the research assignment
- I am requesting that my child complete Alternate Assignment Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature