

# Graduation Project Paper



**SO WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE (PUN  
INTENDED).**

# The Rubric



Graduation Project					
Research Paper Rubric					
Points	Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
	Presents thesis statement with exceptional insight and clear focus	Presents thesis statement with strong insight and clear focus	Presents thesis statement with minimal insight and/or focus	Presents thesis statement with insufficient insight and little focus	Presents no thesis statement OR one with no insight and focus
	Uses the most authoritative, relevant, and current sources, including primary sources that provide multiple perspectives	Uses authoritative, relevant, and current sources, including a primary source, that provide multiple perspectives	Uses valid, relevant sources that provide more than one perspective	Uses insubstantial sources that do not provide sufficient perspective	Uses limited and unreliable sources that do not support the thesis
	Expertly synthesizes ideas by continually drawing connections between thesis and related ideas, and seamlessly balances student voice and textual evidence (direct quotes and paraphrasing)	Effectively synthesizes ideas by frequently drawing connections between thesis and related ideas, and balances student voice and textual evidence (direct quotes and paraphrasing)	Inconsistently synthesizes ideas by drawing connections between thesis and related ideas; balances student voice and textual evidence (direct quotes and paraphrasing)	Insufficient synthesis of ideas and balance of student voice and textual evidence (direct quotes and paraphrasing)	Unsatisfactory or non-existent synthesis of ideas; imbalance of student voice and textual evidence (direct quotes and paraphrasing) OR no textual evidence presented
	Repeat Synthesis Score Enter Synthesis score from the third row (above). This criteria is weighted double for the essay.				
	Seamlessly integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies important points and is analyzed in the body of the paper	Effectively integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies important points and is analyzed in the body of the paper	Adequately integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies a relevant point and is explained in the body of the paper	Insufficiently integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is titled and/or sourced. The graphic refers to a point and is referenced in the body of the paper	Shows no use of approved student-generated graphic OR contains a graphic that is not student-generated
	Demonstrates precise use of prescribed format (MLA or APA) for internal citations and Works Cited page. All internal citations match a WC page entry (and vice versa). Only minimal punctuation errors are present	Demonstrates consistent use of prescribed format (MLA or APA) for internal citations and Works Cited page. All internal citations match a WC page entry (and vice versa). Only minimal punctuation errors are present	Demonstrates inconsistent use of prescribed format (MLA or APA) for internal citations and Works Cited page. All internal citations match a WC page entry (and vice versa). Some punctuation errors are present	Demonstrates limited use of prescribed format (MLA or APA) for internal citations and Works Cited page. Most internal citations match a WC page entry (and vice versa). Consistent punctuation errors may be present	Demonstrates extremely limited use OR no use of prescribed format (MLA or APA). Few internal citations match a WC page entry (and vice versa) OR internal citations are missing. Punctuation may be a significant problem
	Uses sophisticated writing style that includes skillful word choice, sentence variety, clear and consistent voice, and coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses strong writing style that includes careful word choice, sentence variety, clear and consistent voice, and coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses immature writing style that includes weak word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and marginal coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses simplistic writing style that includes weak word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and marginal coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses severely flawed writing style that includes poor word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and little to no coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)
	Expertly uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Effectively uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Inconsistently uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Minimally uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Severely limited use of standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation

# Content



**WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

# Thesis



- Thesis is the foundation of the paper. It is what the writer is trying to convince the reader of.
- Thesis must be **bolded** to receive a score of 1 or higher.
- Generally found at the end of the introduction.
- Must be argumentative and insightful.
- The paper should address/discuss a social issue

# Thesis



<b>Distinguished 4</b>	<b>Effective 3</b>	<b>Minimal 2</b>	<b>Insufficient 1</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory 0</b>
Presents thesis statement with exceptional insight and clear focus	Presents thesis statement with strong insight and clear focus	Presents thesis statement with minimal insight and/or focus	Presents thesis statement with insufficient insight and little focus	Presents no thesis statement OR one with no insight and focus

# Sample Thesis Statements



- Using electronic devices for educational purposes can help students save money, reduce the harmful effects in our ecosystem, and increase the work ethics of students by showing different ways of learning.
- Home school is not the best way to educate a student, because social skills are underdeveloped, because the guardian may not be qualified to teach, and cheating is unpreventable.
- That is where teenagers get the wrong imagine, they do not see that perfect is not something they should strive to be, they should strive to be the person they were set out to be.
- School cafeterias should provide a healthier variety of foods by providing salad bars, deli sandwich bars, and asking the government to spend more money on fresh foods, so students can eat healthier.

# Scoring the Thesis



- Using electronic devices for educational purposes can help students save money, reduce the harmful effects in our ecosystem, and increase the work ethics of students by showing different ways of learning.

○ Possible score:4

# Scoring the Thesis



- Home school is not the best way to educate a student because social skills are underdeveloped, because the guardian may not be qualified to teach, and cheating is unpreventable.

○ Possible score: 3



# Scoring the Thesis



- That is where teenagers get the wrong imagine, they do not see that perfect is not something they should strive to be, they should strive to be the person they were set out to be.

○ Possible Score: 1 or 0

# Scoring the Thesis



- School cafeterias should provide a healthier variety of foods by providing salad bars, deli sandwich bars, and asking the government to spend more money on fresh foods, so students can eat healthier.

○ Possible Score: 2

# Sources



- Papers will not be scored without a Works Cited page.
- Works Cited page will be the last page of the document.
- Must include at least 1 primary source to score a 3 or higher.
- Works Cited reflect the citations in the essay. If they do not match, student cannot score higher than a 1.
- Primary source will be **bolded**.

# Primary versus Secondary Sources



## Secondary Sources

- **Definition:** records created after events occurred by people who were not directly involved
- **Examples:** biographies, textbooks, encyclopedias, some Weblogs, third person newspaper and magazine articles, most documentaries
- **Advantages:** sometimes include excerpts from many primary sources; often include a broad perspective and many viewpoints; can be useful for getting an overview of a topic
- **Disadvantages:** are only as credible as the sources on which they are based; may be biased

## Primary Sources

- **Definition:** materials written or created by people who took part in events or observed them
- **Examples:** letters, diaries, speeches, photographs, autobiographies, e-mails, some Weblogs, first-person newspaper and magazine articles, public documents such as birth certificates
- **Advantages:** provide firsthand information; can give insight into attitudes and beliefs of the times; may contain very specific details
- **Disadvantages:** offer limited perspective; may need interpretation; may be biased

# Sources



Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
Uses <i>the most</i> authoritative, relevant, and current sources, including <i>primary sources</i> that provide multiple perspectives	Uses authoritative, relevant, and current sources, including a <i>primary source</i> , that provide multiple perspectives	Uses valid, relevant sources that provide more than one perspective	Uses insubstantial sources that do not provide sufficient perspective	Uses limited and unreliable sources that do not support the thesis

# Sample Works Cited

86932979

## Works Cited

- Barrington, Linda. "News & Events." *Most Young People Entering the U.S. Workforce Lack Critical Skills Essential for Success*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2012.  
<<http://www.cvvorkingfamilies.org/node/153>>.
- "GS\_115C-564." GS\_115C-564. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2012.  
<[http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter\\_115c/GS\\_115C-564.html](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_115c/GS_115C-564.html)>.
- Johnson, David R., and Martha L. Thurlow. "A National Study on Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Youth with Disabilities."  
[Http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/Onlinepubs/Technical36.htm](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/Onlinepubs/Technical36.htm). National Center on Educational Outcomes, n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2012.
- Lathrop, Ann, and Kathleen Foss. *Guiding Students from Cheating and Plagiarism to Honesty and Integrity: Strategies for Change*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2005. Print.**
- Smith, Logan. Personal Interview, October 2012.
- Smith, Keith. Personal Interview, October 2012.
- Strauss, Valerie. "'Tim Tebow Homeschool Law' Gains Momentum in Virginia." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 25 Jan. 2012. Web. 25 Oct. 2012.  
<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/tim-tebow-homeschool-law-gains-momentum-in-virginia/2012/01/23/gIQAFAypOQ\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/tim-tebow-homeschool-law-gains-momentum-in-virginia/2012/01/23/gIQAFAypOQ_blog.html)>.
- Wangaard, David B., and Jason M. Stephens. *Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity: A Toolkit for Secondary Schools*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute, 2011. Print.**

# Synthesis



- Looking for a balance between student voice and research.
- If there are no in-text citations, there is no balance; therefore, the student would receive **no score**.
- Synthesis score is the most important because it is doubled.

# Synthesis Rubric



Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
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<b>Repeat Synthesis Score</b> Enter Synthesis score from the third row (above). This criteria is weighted double for the essay.				



# Samples Synthesis



One other factor that the media brings to the table when influencing teenagers is the fact that it is okay for teenagers to become sexually active at such a young age. Sexual activity in teenagers can lead to depression. Although depression caused by having intercourse at such a young age is more commonly known in female, men often times face depression as well. In most television shows and movies that teenagers watch nowadays sexually activity is very common. Teenagers get it in their minds that if it's on the television then it is okay to do and that "everybody is doing it". Most of the time, teenagers don't realize the side effects that come from having intercourse. Some side effects include contracting a form of sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy. Most teenagers cannot afford to take care of themselves on their own, let alone another person they would have to look after.

Cheaters abide in all walks of life. People are willing to cheat on most anything, such as taxes, spouses, schools, diets, and even games. Cheating in school may be something as small as copying homework, or as large as copying answers on a test. According to a survey done by Waangard and Stephens, more than ninety percent of the students in the survey admitted to some form of academic dishonesty (1). Most students cheat because of the pressure to obtain high grades. In today's society students are under heavy pressure to get good grades and get enrolled into a good college. "Well-intentioned parents who want their children to be successful in school can place so much pressure on kids that they resort to cheating (Lathrop 237)." Recently, at Harvard, there has been a cheating scandal. Over one-hundred twenty five students have been caught cheating on a take home test (Winter 1). If the students of Harvard, a well renowned private Ivy League university, are willing to cheat, what is stopping home school students from cheating? Because the parent is most likely the teacher, home school students will often have large amounts of time to themselves

# The Graphic



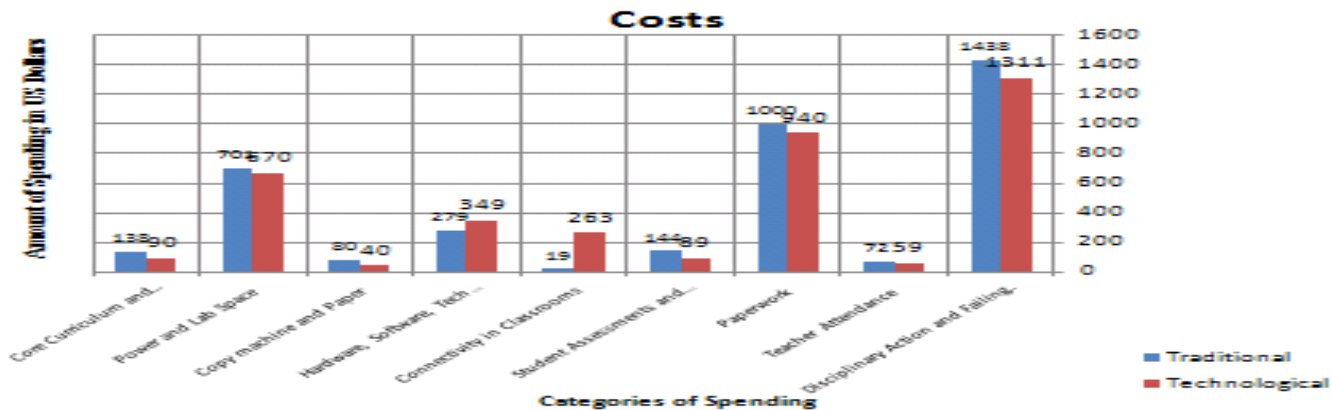
- Student must include a self-generated graphic.
- Student must discuss the contents of the graphic and how it pertains to his or her argument in the paper.
- Graphic must be sourced.
- Graphic does not contribute to the page length requirement of 6-8 pages.

# Graphic Rubric



Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
Seamlessly integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies important points and is analyzed in the body of the paper	Effectively integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies important points and is analyzed in the body of the paper	Adequately integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is clearly titled and sourced. The graphic reinforces and/or clarifies a relevant point and is explained in the body of the paper	Insufficiently integrates one approved student-generated graphic that is titled and/or sourced. The graphic refers to a point and is referenced in the body of the paper	Shows no use of approved student-generated graphic OR contains a graphic that is not student-generated

# Graphic Sample



<http://allthingsd.com/20120329/why-tablets-in-the-classroom-could-save-schools-3-billion-a-year/>

As the graph has shown, seven out of nine of these categories have a result of the technological education's spending less than the traditional education. The two, which have a higher cost in technological, are hardware, software, tech support, and professional development, and connectivity in classrooms. Both of these categories are reasonable and necessary to have a higher cost since they are essential to electronic devices. The total amount of money that was used in a traditional education for a student is \$3,871, while the total amount of money that was used in a technological education for a student is \$3,811. Technological education is cheaper than the traditional for sixty dollars, which is approximately 0.015%. Most people will consider sixty dollars as an insignificant amount. However, "there are more than 49 million students in public elementary and secondary schools in the U.S., so \$60 a student per year is still real money — nearly \$3 billion" (Kafka).

# Conventions



**I FOLLOW RULES, YO!**

# MLA Conventions



- **MLA 101: Crash Course**

- **Formatting**

- ✦ 1 inch margins
- ✦ Times New Roman 12 point font
- ✦ ID number and page number at the top right hand corner
- ✦ Heading includes: ID Number, Teacher, Course, Date (Euro style)
- ✦ Centered Title
- ✦ Indented paragraphs

# Sample MLA Formatted Documents



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(8693297)

Teacher D

English 3 Honors

18 October 2012|

Home School: Dumbing Down America

Many people seem to believe that home school is better than public school. Unfortunately home school is not the best option for education. There are a few loopholes that make home

# MLA conventions



- **MLA 101: Crash Course**

- **In-text citations**

- ✦ “Quote” (Author last name, pg #).
- ✦ EX: “I’m a scientist I know what I’m talking about” (Smartypants, 3).
- ✦ According to Dr. Smartypants, “I know what I’m talking about” (3).

- **Paraphrase**

- ✦ Restated research in own words (Author last name, pg #).
- ✦ EX: Scientists are knowledgeable because of their profession (Smartypants, 3).
- ✦ According to Dr. Smartypants, scientists are knowledgeable (3).

NOTE: When using an online source with no author, website or article title will be used in place of the author’s last name.



# Sample In-Text Citations



## Sample Paraphrase:

- According to a survey done by Waangard and Stephens, more than ninety percent of the students in the survey admitted to some form of academic dishonesty (1).

## Sample Quotation with in-text citation

- Well-intentioned parents who want their children to be successful in school can place so much pressure on kids that they resort to cheating (Lathrop 237)."

# Writing Style



- Self Explanatory

Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
Uses sophisticated writing style that includes skillful word choice, sentence variety, clear and consistent voice, and coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses strong writing style that includes careful word choice, sentence variety, clear and consistent voice, and coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses immature writing style that includes weak word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and marginal coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses simplistic writing style that includes weak word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and marginal coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)	Uses severely flawed writing style that includes poor word choice, limited sentence variety, vague and inconsistent voice, and little to no coherence (clear transitions, unity of paragraphs, etc.)

# Grammar



Distinguished 4	Effective 3	Minimal 2	Insufficient 1	Unsatisfactory 0
Expertly uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Effectively uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Inconsistently uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Minimally uses standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation	Severely limited use of standard writing conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation

- Distinguished = 5 or less errors (generally)
- Effective = 7 -9 errors (generally)
- Minimal = Errors are prevalent, but sentences make sense.
- Insufficient = There are many moments in the writing where the reader cannot understand what the writer's intent.
- Unsatisfactory = Writing is incomprehensible.