

# Death Penalty Research Paper Rubric

Below are the guidelines of which your final draft will be graded. Failure to meet the minimum requirements (1) of a given category will result in a zero for that category (**100 points total**).

	5	4	3/2	1
Introduction X 1	Introduction is very well written and clearly identifies, and briefly describes at least three arguments that will be used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Introduction is well written and identifies, and briefly describes at least three arguments that will be used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Introduction is written and identifies, but does not describe one or two arguments that will be used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Introduction is not well written and does not clearly identify, or describe any arguments that will be used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.
Thesis Statement X 2	Demonstrates strong insight into topic and clear understanding of the work. Shows synthesis of ideas, placing specifics in larger context, and other examples of higher thinking.	Demonstrates insight into topics and understanding of work. Writing shows some examples of higher level thinking skills.	Limited or confused thesis statement with limited support in writing. Writing supports some of the arguments offered in support of the thesis.	Confused and poorly supported thesis shows limited understanding of the work. Writing does not present specific ideas connected to the larger contexts or synthesis of thoughts.
Argument One X 2	Argument is very clearly described and defended. Student effectively uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is clearly described and defended. Student uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is poorly described and defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is not clearly described or defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.
Argument Two X 2	Argument is very clearly described and defended. Student effectively uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is clearly described and defended. Student uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is poorly described and defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is not clearly described or defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.
Argument Three X 2	Argument is very clearly described and defended. Student effectively uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is clearly described and defended. Student uses chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is poorly described and defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.	Argument is not clearly described or defended. Student does not effectively use chosen argument to defend their chosen position on the death penalty.

Sources X 4	At least three sources are cited twice (for each) and are accurately documented in the desired MLA format with works cited page.	No more than two sources are used and cited twice (for each) and are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired MLA format with works cited page.	No more than two sources are used and cited twice (for each) and are documented, but many are not in the desired MLA format and some are not in works cited page.	One source is used and cited twice and or is not accurately documented in MLA format and some are not in works cited page.
Grammar and Mechanics (per MLA) X 2	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.
Organization X 2	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings. A variety of thoughtful transitions are used.	Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs. Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety.	Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well-constructed. Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy.	The information appears to be disorganized. The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.
Conclusion X 1	Conclusion is very well written and clearly identifies, and briefly restates the three arguments that were used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Conclusion is well written and identifies, and briefly restates the three arguments that were used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Conclusion is written and identifies, but does not restate the three arguments that were identified, or describes the three used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.	Conclusion is not well written and does not clearly identify, or restate the three arguments that were used to defend students chosen position on the death penalty.
Works Cited and Cover Page X 2	All citations are in alphabetical order by the first word of the citation (excluding a, an, and the). All citations begin at the left margin with the following lines in a hanging indent. All citations have all the required elements per MLA guidelines.	Most citations are in alphabetical order by the first letter of the citation (excluding a, an, and the). Most citations begin at the left margin with the following lines in a hanging indent. Most citations have all the required elements per MLA guidelines.	Some citations are in alphabetical order by the first letter of the citation (excluding a, an, and the). Citation indentation is reversed, with the first line indented and the following line at the margin. Some citations have all the required elements per MLA guidelines.	No appearance of alphabetization. No indentation of lines. None of the citations have all the required elements per MLA guidelines.