# Research Paper Grading Rubric

Student: ___________________________  Date: ________________

Your paper will be graded on the following criteria:

1. **Voice/Audience/Style**
   - Is your idea/topic original and pertinent? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you make a marginal contribution over course lectures and class discussions? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Is your language appropriate for an academic paper? Appropriate for your audience? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Is there evidence of your own original thinking? Or, are you merely parroting others? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you paraphrase sources primarily in your own words, quoting occasionally or not at all? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the paper flow, fit together, and read well? Does it hold the interest of the reader? 1-2-3-4-5

2. **Substance/Content/Research**
   - Does the paper have a basic literature review, showing that you are familiar with what has been written? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the paper draw upon the literature, analyzing it, assessing and critiquing it? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use evidence and analysis to support your arguments? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use academic sources – books, articles, policy papers – rather than Wikipedia/internet? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you effectively use data? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you effectively present data? Do tables, charts, graphs, and/or figures contribute to the reader’s understanding of the paper? Do they relate to your text? Is the source of the data cited appropriately? Are tables, charts, graphs, and/or figures formatted correctly and professionally? 1-2-3-4-5

3. **Economic Thinking**
   - Does your paper show clear evidence of economic thinking? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Are you able to incorporate theory and use economic reasoning as the basis for your arguments? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use basic economic logic (properly)? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Are economic concepts and terms used properly? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Are economic relationships explained and used correctly? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Is there appropriate depth and breadth of economic resources? 1-2-3-4-5

4. **Clarity and Organization**
   - Does the paper have a title? Your name? Abstract? Page numbers? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the paper have a clear thesis and conclusion? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does your paper have an introduction? A body? A conclusion? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the introduction set the scene for the paper and its structure? Do you offer a clear roadmap for the subsequent paper? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do individual paragraphs flow clearly? Does each paragraph have a topic sentence? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the paper flow clearly between paragraphs? Are transitions smooth and logical? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Are your conclusions and paper clear to the reader? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does the conclusion clearly and concisely summarize the main points of the paper? 1-2-3-4-5

5. **Mechanics**
   - Did you proofread the paper? Thrice? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use proper spelling? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use proper punctuation? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Is your word choice appropriate? Are technical terms used or abused? Is your vocabulary varied or boring? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use proper grammar? Do you avoid colloquial language, fragmented sentences, run-on sentences, and incomplete sentences? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Does your language carry your ideas? Or is it an obstacle? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Is your paper free of typographical errors? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you use the proper style (MLA, APA, or Chicago style)? 1-2-3-4-5
   - Do you cite ALL outside sources appropriately (quotation marks, bibliography/footnote)? No plagiarism! 1-2-3-4-5

(Rubric and Comments on back)
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