



## Checklist for Research Papers

### Higher Order Concerns

- Does the essay address the assignment? Were the instructions – page length, format, number and type of resources – followed?
- Does the introduction capture the reader's attention? How so? Does the intro forecast the paper's intent?
- Is the thesis clear? Is the thesis too broad or too narrow?
- Is the paper organized clearly and logically? If there are subheadings, do the subheadings follow the accepted format?
- Does each body paragraph support the thesis and begin with a topic sentence?
- Do the sentences in each paragraph support the topic sentence?
- Are the relationships between ideas clear? Do ideas transition smoothly from one to the next?
- Does the evidence adequately and logically support the thesis? Are there enough supporting details and examples?
- Are the sources credible? Do they come from scholarly texts or reliable organizations?
- Are the diction and tone appropriate for the audience?
- Does the conclusion answer the broad question "So what?" (What does all of this information amount to?), or does it simply restate points that have already been made?

### Lower Order Concerns

- Is the title appropriate? Is it too broad or narrow? Does it capture the reader's attention?
- Are quotations clearly introduced, and do they flow smoothly within the text? Are long quotes set off from the text?
- Does the writer properly cite sources throughout the paper? Are parenthetical citations accurate?
- Does the writer follow the formatting guidelines (MLA, APA, CSE, etc.)?
- Has the writer included a Works Cited page or Bibliography?
- Are there spelling or grammar errors?