

### Unit 3 Project Rubric: Writing a Research Paper (100 Points)

This rubric will help you understand how your Unit 3 Project: Research Paper will be graded. It shows what is expected in each part of your project and how many points each section is worth (for a total of 100 points). Use this rubric as you work to make sure you include all the important parts. Your teacher will use the same rubric to give you feedback and a final grade.

Criteria	Excellent (Full points)	Good	Needs Improvement	Below Expectations	No Marks
Topic & Introduction (15 pts)	15 pts — Topic is clearly introduced, well-focused, and interesting. Introduction paragraph includes all required parts.	12 pts — Topic is introduced and mostly clear, but may lack strong focus or detail.	9 pts — Topic is weak or unclear; introduction is missing key parts.	6 pts — Topic is hard to understand; introduction is confusing or incomplete.	0 pts — No introduction paragraph.
Body Paragraphs (30 pts)	30 pts — Three clear body paragraphs with strong main ideas, good facts, and examples. Each paragraph focuses on one point.	24 pts — Three body paragraphs are present, with some strong details and focus.	18 pts — Paragraphs are missing clear points or have weak information.	12 pts — Body paragraphs are short, off-topic, or missing details.	0 pts — No body paragraphs.
Conclusion (10 pts)	10 pts — Strong conclusion that restates the topic and main points and ends clearly.	8 pts — Conclusion is present and mostly clear but may be missing a strong ending.	6 pts — Conclusion is weak or too short.	4 pts — Conclusion is confusing or doesn't relate to the rest of the report.	0 pts — No conclusion.
Research & Sources (15)	15 pts — Includes 2	12 pts — Sources are	9 pts — Some sources are	6 pts — Few sources or	0 pts — No research or

pts)	reliable sources. Facts are accurate and clearly support the topic.	mostly reliable; facts support the topic.	unclear or facts are weak.	poor information used.	sources included.
Works Cited (10 pts)	10 pts — “Works Cited” section is complete, with 2 sources listed correctly.	8 pts — Sources are listed but with minor formatting errors or missing information.	6 pts — Fewer than 2 sources or list is missing details.	4 pts — Works Cited list is incomplete or unclear.	0 pts — No Works Cited section.
Organization & Structure (10 pts)	10 pts — Report follows the 5-paragraph structure and is well organized with smooth transitions.	8 pts — Structure is mostly followed, with some organization .	6 pts — Report is disorganized or off structure.	4 pts — Hard to follow or missing key parts.	0 pts — No clear structure.
Writing & Grammar (10 pts)	10 pts — Writing is clear, in student’s own words, with correct spelling and grammar.	8 pts — Few errors, mostly clear writing.	6 pts — Many grammar/spelling errors or unclear writing.	4 pts — Hard to understand due to many mistakes.	0 pts — Writing is unreadable or copied.

**Disclaimer:** Journals are a graded part of the Language Arts course. Completing them is required.

Point Deductions for Missing Journals	
More than half of the required journal entries are missing	10 point Deduction
Half of the journal entries are missing	5 point Deduction

## Plagiarism Policy Reminder

American High School upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all students to demonstrate honesty and responsibility in their academic work. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of our school community, requiring students to complete their own work and appropriately acknowledge the ideas and words of others.

This expectation also includes the responsible use of technology. The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects — in place of a student's own effort — is considered a violation of the school's academic integrity policy.

Any instance of plagiarism — defined as presenting another person's work, ideas, or expressions as one's own — is a serious violation of school policy. Students found in violation of the plagiarism policy will face disciplinary consequences.

Students are encouraged to review the full policy to ensure a clear understanding of expectations and consequences.

**Click [here](#) to read the updated Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy.**