

## Grading Rubric for Research Paper (150 Points Possible)

1. 20 Points for submitting the final draft on time, i.e., prior to the due date and time.
2. Bibliography (10 points) -- Get 10 points for including a bibliography (or list of references) that contains sufficient information for reader to find the reference material. There must be at least 4 different references in your bibliography. We will not be looking for a specific format or style. Your bibliography entries must contain the correct information about source material, which includes authors, title, and source of information. The bibliography should be neatly presented and formatted so that it is easy to read individual entries and locate the original source material.
3. In-text citations (10 points) – Get 10 points for including at least four in-text citations to items in your bibliography. No specific format is required for your in-text citations. However, it must be clear as to which source (or bibliography entry) that the information was taken from. This grade does not consider the effective use of reference material.
4. Effective use of reference material (20 points) – You are required to have at least 4 in-text citations that specifically address arguments that you make in the body section of the paper. This is important to show that you have done sufficient research on your topic. These citations are judged differently than item three above. Most importantly, there must be citations that link with arguments presented on both sides of the topic question or debate. For example, if your topic is to debate which system is better carbon cap and trade or carbon tax, then you are expected to have at least four citations to reference material supporting one or both sides of the issue, one side arguing for cap and trade over tax and the other side arguing for tax over cap and trade. Citations that simply describe how cap and trade operates would not count as an effective use of reference material since it does not address the main topic question. There can be citations to the ideas of others, which support one side of the debate or issue. There can be citations to data or information that support arguments on one side of the debate or issue. The use of long, direct quotations is discouraged, especially if the information can be easily presented in your own words. Points will be deducted for unnecessarily long direct quotations.
5. Plagiarism. Missing citations to reference material where required will be dealt with severely. Up to 20 points will be deducted for minor infractions, such as failing to provide citations to a reference source that is listed in the bibliography. For severe cases of plagiarism, such as including material from sources that are not listed in your bibliography or extended word-for-word copying without quotation marks (or simply changing a few words in each sentence), no credit will be awarded for the paper. For especially severe cases, such as copying another paper, the instructor may consult with the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

The remainder of the grade is based on the paper content and writing. A grade will be awarded for each of the three sections of the paper.

6. Introduction and title (30 points) – Look for content listed below as well as writing, which includes organization, clarity, use of words, grammar, and spelling
  - a. A descriptive title is required. Generic titles such as “Research Paper” are not acceptable.
  - b. Background information. At a minimum, the introduction should include that CO<sub>2</sub> is increasing due to human activity, many are concerned this will lead to harmful climate changes, thus several countries have enacted or are considering legislation to reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. For some topics more background information will be necessary.
  - c. Introduce your topic into the background discussion. Let the reader know what you are going to discuss (or debate) in the body of the paper.
  
7. Body (40 points) – Look for content listed below as well as writing, which includes organization, clarity, use of words, grammar, and spelling
  - a. Topic must be an acceptable, debatable issue for the paper
  - b. Arguments on both sides of a single, focused issue should be presented.
  - c. Points will be deducted for losing focus and straying into multiple issues or topics.
  - d. Must show sufficient research on both sides by using in-text citations. If there is no evidence of outside research, you may lose all credit for the body section.
  - e. Relative length of body section. The body section of the paper should be significantly longer than the introduction and conclusion sections.
  
8. Conclusion (20 points) – Look for content listed below as well as writing, which includes organization, clarity, use of words, grammar, and spelling
  - a. Brief summary of the background issue and debatable topic
  - b. Opinion clearly expressed with respect to the debatable issue or topic. You are not expected to present a persuasive argument or detailed explanation for your opinion, but you should briefly discuss the main reason for your opinion on the issue. Use of the word “I” is appropriate when stating your opinions and beliefs.