AP Research: Academic Paper Course Proficiencies

Course Proficiency	Not Proficient	Developing ———————➤ Proficient ———————————➤ Mastery		
Understand and Analyze Context	An incoherent topic of inquiry is presented.	Identifies a topic of inquiry that is overly broad.	Identifies a focused topic of inquiry and explains why the study is significant or is needed.	
Understand and Analyze Argument	No scholarly works used.	Summarizes main ideas from previous scholarly works that are oversimplified, overly broad, irrelevant, or in the service of one perspective.	Summarizes main ideas from multiple perspectives from previous scholarly works that are relevant to the topic of inquiry.	Explicit connections are made between multiple perspectives from previous scholarly works and with the topic of inquiry.
Research Design	No research method identified.	Identifies a research method that is oversimplified and/or non-replicable. **OR** Describes a research method that is misaligned to the purpose of the study.	The detailed description of the research method is accompanied by a logical defense of how the chosen method is aligned to the purpose of the inquiry.	
Establish Argument	No discernable argument.	Reports on what is known. **OR** Provides a conclusion that is unsupported by the evidence provided or generated.	Describes a new understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry. This new understanding is supported by evidence generated through the chosen research-based method.	Describes a new understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry. This new understanding is supported by evidence generated through the chosen research-based method. **AND** Describes the limitations of the new understanding due to either the chosen method or the way the method was implemented.
Apply Conventions (handling of sources)	The response is missing a bibliography/works cited OR the response is missing in-text citations/ footnotes.	Demonstrates a technical handling of sources through the use of in-text citations or footnotes, but not always accurately. The *bibliography* or *works cited* references sources using a generally consistent style with some errors and/or includes non-referenced sources.	Demonstrates a purposeful handling of sources through a comprehensive and accurate *works cited* or *bibliography* section and through the use of an appropriate discipline-specific style for in-text citations or footnotes.	
Apply Conventions (grammar and style)	The response has many grammatical flaws, is difficult to understand, or is written in a style inappropriate for an academic audience.	The response is generally clear but may contain some flaws in grammar or a few instances of a style inappropriate for an academic audience.	The written style is consistently appropriate for an academic audience, although the response may have a few errors in grammar and style. The response creates variety, emphasis, and interest to the reader through the use of effective sentences, precision of word choice, and organizational or design elements.	