Academic Fair Research Paper Rubric   Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Sequencing (Organization)	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized.
Conclusion (Organization)	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at."	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.
Sentence Structure (Sentence Fluency)	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling.
Support for Topic (Content)	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes very few errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes some errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes numerous errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
Conventions of MLA style	Writer properly formts paper in MLA style. In-text citations are sandwiched and properly punctuated. Parenthetical information is properly formatted.	Most of the conventions of MLA style are followed. In-text citations are almost always conventional.	Follows a few of the conventions of MLA style, neglects some. Citations are obvious, though not conventional.	Makes no attempt at MLA style formatting. Work quoted, summarized, or paraphrased is not cited in text.
Transitions (Organization)	A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected.	Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety.	Very few transitions used.	The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistant.
Works Cited	Works cited page properly formatted.	Works cited page has very few errors.	Works cited page has many errors.	Works cited page is missing or improperly formatted.
Paper Length	Research paper is 4-5 pages.	Research paper is 3 1/2 - 4 pages or greater than 5 pages.	Research paper is 3 pages.	Research paper is less than 3 pages.