

APPENDIX B-1: State-Endorsed North Carolina Graduation Project Rubrics and Descriptors (Paper Component)

Rubrics are evaluation tools used to score/grade an assignment or task. The four components of the graduation project will be scored using the rubrics included in this document for both formative and summative evaluations. Rubrics provide an objective method of evaluating the components of the graduation project. Each of the four levels of performance included in the rubrics is identified, along with descriptors of the level. The description given for each level of performance indicates what is expected based on specific criteria for the various categories of the research paper, the product, the portfolio, and the oral presentation. **It is extremely important that all stakeholders be familiar with the rubrics, especially, parents and students.**

EXEMPLARY – Students performing at this level perform all components at a superior level beyond the level which is required for proficiency. Exemplary work implies that the student has exceeded expectations in every way and has presented a model Graduation Project worthy of showcasing and emulating.

SATISFACTORY – Students performing at this level perform all components at a consistent level and demonstrate acceptable proficiency. Satisfactory work implies that the student has worked diligently to do strong work on all components and has presented a worthy Graduation Project.

DEVELOPING/EMERGING – Students performing at this level have not shown sufficient proficiency in all components and have not achieved adequate proficiency. Developing/emerging work implies that the student has more work to do to present satisfactory work in order to complete the Graduation Project.

RESUBMISSION NECESSARY – Students performing at this level have not achieved proficiency in all components and have not met the minimum standards for completion of the Graduation Project. Resubmission implies that the student has considerable work to do to complete the Graduation Project and is in need of coaching in order to do so.

NOT SUBMITTED – Student did not submit evidence of any effort completed for the designated task.

North Carolina Public Schools' Graduation Project Paper Rubric

	Successful Completion		Has Not Completed		
	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Developing/ Emerging	Resubmission Necessary	Not Submitted
Focus	Presents an insightful and focused thesis statement.	Presents a thesis statement with adequate insight and focus.	Presents a thesis statement with minimal insight and focus.	Presents a thesis statement with no insight or focus.	Fails to submit paper.
	Draws strong and clear connections between the thesis and significant related ideas.	Draws adequate connections between thesis and related ideas.	Draws insufficient connections between thesis and related ideas.	Shows no understanding of connections between thesis and related ideas.	Fails to submit paper.
Organization	Effectively provides a logical progression of related ideas and supporting information in the body of the paper.	Adequately provides a progression of ideas and supporting information in the body of the paper.	Provides a poorly organized progression of ideas and supporting information in the body of the paper.	Does not provide a progression of ideas and supporting information in the body of the paper.	Fails to submit paper.
	Effectively uses transitions to connect supporting information clearly.	Adequately uses transitions to connect supporting information.	Ineffectively uses transitions to connect supporting information.	Does not use transitions to connect supporting information.	Fails to submit paper.
	Arrives at a well-documented, logical conclusion, involving critical thinking.	Arrives at an adequately-documented conclusion.	Arrives at an insufficiently documented conclusion.	Does not arrive at a documented conclusion.	Fails to submit paper.

Paper Rubric, continued

	Successful Completion		Has Not Completed		
	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Developing/ Emerging	Resubmission Necessary	Not Submitted
Support/ Elaboration	Effectively synthesizes complex ideas from research sources.	Sufficiently synthesizes ideas from research sources.	Ineffectively synthesizes ideas from research sources.	No evidence of synthesizing ideas from research sources.	Fails to submit paper.
	Demonstrates exceptional selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis and its related ideas.	Demonstrates sufficient selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis and its related ideas.	Demonstrates insufficient selection of supporting information clearly relevant to the thesis and its related ideas.	Lacks supporting information clearly relevant to thesis and its related ideas.	Fails to submit paper.
	Provides a meaningful presentation of multiple perspectives.	Provides an adequate presentation of multiple perspectives.	Provides a limited presentation of multiple perspectives.	Does not present multiple perspectives.	Fails to submit paper.
	Effectively balances use of quotations and student paraphrasing.	Adequately balances use of quotations and student paraphrasing.	Insufficiently balances use of quotations and student paraphrasing.	Does not balance use of quotations and student paraphrasing.	Fails to submit paper.
	Skillfully integrates student-generated visual aids (i.e. diagrams, charts, graphs, pictures, graphic organizers) to emphasize important content.	Effectively integrates student-generated visual aids (i.e. diagrams, charts, graphs, pictures, graphic organizers) to clarify content.	Includes student-generated visual aids (i.e. diagrams, charts, graphs, pictures, graphic organizers) to clarify content.	Shows no use of student-generated visual aids (i.e. diagrams, charts, graphs, pictures, graphic organizers) to clarify content.	Fails to submit paper.
	Style	Exhibits skillful use of language, including effective word choice, clarity, and consistent voice.	Exhibits good use of language, including some mastery of word choice, clarity, and consistent voice.	Exhibits ineffective use of language, including weak word choice, limited clarity, and inconsistent voice.	Exhibits severely flawed use of language, including weak word choice, no clarity, and no voice.
Demonstrates exceptional fluency through varied sentence structure, paragraphing, flow of ideas, and transitions.		Demonstrates sufficient fluency through sentence structure, paragraphing, flow of ideas, and transitions.	Demonstrates limited fluency through sentence structure, paragraphing, flow of ideas, and transitions.	Lacks fluency through sentence structure, paragraphing, flow of ideas, and transitions.	Fails to submit paper.

Paper Rubric, continued

	Successful Completion		Has Not Completed		
	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Developing/ Emerging	Resubmission Necessary	Not Submitted
Conventions	Demonstrates a sophisticated use of the prescribed format (MLA or APA), including title page, pagination, and citations.	Demonstrates adequate use of the prescribed format (MLA or APA), including title page, pagination, and citations.	Demonstrates limited use of the prescribed format (MLA or APA), including title page, pagination, and citations.	Demonstrates no use of the prescribed format (MLA or APA), including title page, pagination, and citations.	Fails to submit paper.
	Consistently uses standard writing conventions in grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.	Generally uses standard writing conventions in grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.	Minimally uses standard writing conventions in grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.	Does not use standard writing conventions in grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.	Fails to submit a paper.
Information Literacy	Conscientiously and consistently demonstrates integrity in citing practices.	Generally demonstrates integrity in citing practices.	Inconsistently demonstrates integrity in citing practices.	Does not demonstrate integrity in citing practices.	Fails to submit paper.
	Effectively employs an extensive variety of primary and secondary sources, including a significant amount of current information.	Adequately employs a sufficient variety of primary and secondary sources including a sufficient amount of current information.	Employs a limited variety of primary and secondary sources including an insufficient amount of current information.	Does not employ a variety of primary and secondary sources and/or does not include current information.	Fails to submit paper.
	Demonstrates strong evaluation skills in determining resource credibility and reliability.	Demonstrates sufficient evaluation skills in determining resource credibility and reliability.	Demonstrates limited evaluation skills in determining resource credibility and reliability.	Demonstrates no evaluation skills to determine resource credibility and reliability.	Fails to submit paper.