Research Paper Grading Checklist

General Organization and Strength (10 pts):

☐ Does the paper properly address the assignment?

☐ Overall, is the paper focused, clear, and concise?

☐ Introduction, body, and conclusion.

☐ Clear statement of position. Can I figure out what you're talking about.

☐ Use of supporting arguments. Do you back up your claims?

☐ Strength of supporting arguments. Are they relevant, and are they legitimate (reliable sources)?

☐ Use of numbers and statistics. Do they add up? (Did someone die at 165? Is 28 million really 12% of 1000?) Don't confuse statistics; such assuming United States statistics apply to the whole world.

☐ Overall logic. As a whole does the paper make sense?

☐ Avoid redundancy, trivia, and irrelevant information. Did I mention redundancy?

☐ Entertainment value; meaning I learned something, the paper was provocative, and/or the paper was funny.

General Specifications (4 pts):

☐ 3-5 Double-spaced pages in length.

☐ Once half inch margins right, left, top and bottom.

☐ Font Size and Style.

APA References in Text (4 pts):

☐ All quotes are cited.

☐ All sources of statistics are cited. Or did you just "happen to know" when Helmholtz was born, or the prevalence of XXY individuals in the United States?

☐ All obvious and apparent paraphrasing of other people's work cited.

☐ All in text citations follow APA format.

☐ All in text citations are also listed in complete form in Reference List.

APA Reference List (4 Pts):

☐ All sources are cited.

☐ All citations are complete and follow APA format.

☐ All citations are used in text.

☐ Sources can be assumed to be reasonably reliable.

General use of Language, Structure, Syntax, and Punctuation (3 pts):

- ☐ Can I figure out what you're trying to say?
- ☐ Are there excessive run-on or comma splice sentences?
- ☐ Are there multiple sentence fragments?
- ☐ Avoid awkward or convoluted sentence structure.
- ☐ Pronoun agreement.
- ☐ Proper paragraphing.
- ☐ Correct capitalization and punctuation used (God and I like to be capitalized).
- ☐ Spelling. At least try to get close. Remember spell checks don't correct misuse (its vs. it's).

Automatic Point Deductions:

- ☐ Late Submission: 5 Points Deducted.
- ☐ Only Two References: 3 Points Deducted.
- ☐ Only One Reference: 6 Points Deducted.
- ☐ No References: 9 Points Deducted.