



Independent Study Project Rubric

Criteria	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Introduction	The reader's attention is captured and the tone of the paper is clearly set.	The tone of the paper is noticeable.	There is an attempt to draw the reader into the topic.	An introduction is present.
Thesis	The main sections of the essay are clearly laid out, leaving no doubt what is going to be discussed.	The thesis and supporting arguments are included.	The thesis and suggestions of the arguments are included, but unclear.	The sections of the paper are effectively not identified.
Background Information	The background on the topic is well summarized and organized into themes.	A background is present.	A background is present but does not properly set the stage for the arguments.	An attempt was made to provide background information on the topic.
Discussion	Relevant evidence supports clear arguments that prove the stated thesis.	Evidence is included to support the main idea of the thesis.	Some of the evidence supports the thesis.	Information is provided on the topic, but does not support the thesis.
Implications	A logical discussion of how the findings can be used in the real world	The implications of the findings to the real world are explained	The implications of the findings to the real world are mentioned	The implications of the findings to the real world are vague
Summary & Conclusions	An effective summary of the evidence leads to logical conclusions.	The main arguments are reiterated and a conclusion is present.	A summary and concluding statement are present.	A summary or concluding statement is present.
Methodology	The method of research for this paper is clearly identified and insightful in process.	The process for researching this paper is explained.	The research methodology is present but focuses on irrelevant details.	The research methodology is mentioned.
References	All information from outside sources are properly identified in the text and listed at the end.	Embedded references are used for most sources and are listed at the end of the paper.	Only some embedded references are used and/or formatting errors occurred.	An attempt was made at referencing sources.
Visuals	The maps, charts, photographs, or other visuals meaningfully contribute to the quality of the paper.	Maps, charts, photographs, and other visuals were present and appropriate.	Visuals were included, but were unclear as to their relevance in supporting the thesis.	Visuals were included.
Writing, Spelling, and Grammar	Language use is advanced and appropriate. There are no spelling or grammar errors	Language use is appropriate. There are not many spelling or grammar errors.	Language use is satisfactory. There are some spelling and grammar errors.	Language use is below grade level. There are many spelling and grammar errors.