Undergraduate Research Manuscript Rubric

Name_____

Undergraduate research is becoming more important in higher education as evidence is accumulating that clear, inquiry-based learning, scholarship, and creative accomplishments can and do foster effective, high levels of student learning. This curricular innovation includes identifying a concrete investigative problem, carrying out the project, and sharing findings with peers. The following standards describe effective research manuscripts.

Standards	5 - 4 Exemplary	3 - 2 Satisfactory	1-0 Unacceptable	Score	Weight	Total Score
Abstract	Clearly states problem and question to be resolved; clearly summarizes method, results, and conclusions	Summarizes problem, method, results, and conclusions but lacks some details	Is vague about the problem; does not provide a summary of the whole project		X 2	
Introduction	Provides background research into the topic and summarizes important findings from the review of the literature; describes problem to be solved; justifies the study; explains the significance of the problem to an audience of non-specialists	Provides background research into the topic and describes the problem to be solved	Provides background research into the topic but does not describe the problem to be solved; fails to explain details to non-specialists		X 1	
Problem	Addresses the problem with clarity	Addresses the problem but may sometimes digress	Does not address the problem		X1	
Procedure	Presents easy-to-follow steps that are logical and adequately detailed; sampling is appropriate to the problem	Presents most of the steps but lacks some details	Has steps but some are missing or not sequential		X1	
Data and results	Explains data and results in a complete fashion	Explains data and results with some features lacking detail	Lacks description of data and results		X2	
Conclusion	Presents a logical explanation for findings; addresses recommenda-tions for further research or use/application	Presents a logical explanation for findings	Does not adequately explain findings		X2	
Mechanics and documentation	Is free or almost free of errors of grammar, spelling, and writing mechanics; documents sources	Has errors but they don't represent a major distraction; documents sources	Has many errors that obscure meaning or add confusion; neglects important sources or uses too few		X1	

Reviewer_____   Grand Total _____