

**A Descriptive Rubric
for Research Reports in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**

Introduction (10 points)	The introduction smoothly pulls the reader into the topic, is organized, presents the main argument clearly, and states the author's views. (10)	The introduction is organized but does not adequately present the main argument or does not state the author's views. (8)	The introduction presents the main argument and the author's views but is disorganized and does not flow smoothly. (7)	The introduction is disorganized and difficult to follow. The main argument and the author's views are not introduced. (5)
Content (20 points)	Information is presented clearly, completely and accurately across all sections. At least 3 major sections; at least 1 major section has 2-3 subsections. (20)	Information is unclear and difficult to understand in 1 section. (18)	Information is unclear and difficult to understand in 2-3 sections. (16)	The paper is unclear and difficult to understand across 4 or more sections. (12)
Organization (20 points)	Organization is clear; good framework. Headers, preview paragraphs, topic sentences, and transitions aid in understanding main points. Information is presented logically. (20)	Organization is unclear in 1 section (unfocused paragraphs, poor topic sentences, poor transitions). All other sections are logically organized. (18)	Organization is unclear in 2-3 sections OR headers and preview paragraphs or sentences are missing. (16)	Organization is unclear in 4 or more sections. (12)
Conclusion/ Original Thought (20 points)	Specific ideas for improving research or other ideas are presented in an organized manner with logical rationales. (20)	Specific ideas are presented but the rationales for 1 idea may be weak. (18)	Ideas are presented but in a vague, generic format OR rationales for 2 or more ideas are weak. (16)	Fewer than 3 original ideas related to the topic are presented OR all ideas are not well explained. (12)
Writing Style (10 points)	Tone is professional, vocabulary and syntax are mature, and easy to understand terms are used throughout the paper (10)	Syntax or vocabulary is complex, awkward, or filled with jargon in 1-2 sections of the paper OR words are used incorrectly in 1-2 sections of the paper. (7)	Syntax or vocabulary is complex, awkward, or filled with jargon in 3-4 sections of the paper OR words are used incorrectly in 3-4 sections of the paper. (5)	Writing style makes more than 4 sections of the paper difficult to read and understand. (3)
Writing Use/ Mechanics (10 points)	The paper is free of spelling, syntax, formatting, punctuation errors. (10)	The paper has less than 5 spelling, punctuation, formatting, syntax errors. (7)	The paper has 6-15 spelling, punctuation, formatting, syntax errors. (5)	More than 16 errors across the paper make it difficult to follow. (3)
APA Rules (10 points)	All APA rules are followed for citations, headers, numbers, series, quotes, references, etc. (10)	Fewer than 3 violations of APA rules, or 1-2 missing or incorrect citations and references (7)	4-10 violations of APA rules and/or 3-5 missing or incorrect citations and references (5)	11 or more violations of APA rules and/or 6 or more missing or incorrect citations and references. (3)

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