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|  | Advanced | Effective | Proficient | Needs Improvement |
| **Clear research question.** | Clearly and concisely states the paper’s purpose in a single sentence, which is engaging, and thought provoking. | Clearly states the paper’s purpose in a single sentence | States the paper’s purpose in a single sentence. | Incomplete and/or unfocused. |
| **Statement of problem—appropriate connection to global research** | Clearly states problem and the problem is presented in an engaging, thought-provoking way, while making a connection to the global issue. | Clearly states problem with a connection to the global issue. | States the problem | No problem stated. |
| **Projection of your proposal.** | Clearly stated view of the direction of research and the expected answers. | Stated view of the projected answers. | Somewhat clear view of stated answers. | Absent |
| **Organization and logical progression of ideas at the paragraph-level in background information.** | Each paragraph has thoughtful supporting detail sentences that develop the main idea. | Each paragraph has sufficient supporting detail sentences that develop the main idea. | Each paragraph lacks supporting detail sentences. | Each paragraph fails to develop the main idea. |
| **Correct use of MLA format** | All cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format with no errors. | Some cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format. Inconsistencies evident. | Few cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format. | Absent |
| **Style/language—correct punctuation; clear sentences; active voice; cohesion between sentences.** | No errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.  No errors sentence structure and word usage. | Almost no errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.  Almost no errors in sentence structure and word usage. | Many errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.  Many errors in sentence structure and word usage. | Numerous and distracting errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.  Numerous and distracting errors in sentence structure and word usage. |
| **Citations— three quality scholarly sources with a connection to your proposed research clear.** | All cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format with no errors. | Some cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format. Inconsistencies evident. | Few cited works, both text and visual, are done in the correct format. | Absent |