



## Honors Research-Based Thesis Rubric

Student's Name:

Faculty's Name:

### Research Question and Objectives (10 points)

- 9-10 points: Clear, focused research question/objectives with precise alignment and logical progression evident. Demonstrates exceptional creativity and critical inquiry in formulating the research question, showing originality and innovative thinking.
- 7-8 points: Research question/objectives are clear and focused with good alignment and logical progression. Shows evidence of creativity and critical thinking in formulating the research question/objectives.
- 5-6 points: Research question/objectives are clear but may lack some precision or full alignment. Shows some attempt at critical inquiry and creativity in formulation.
- 3-4 points: Research question/objectives are somewhat clear but lack precision or logical alignment. Shows minimal evidence of critical inquiry or creativity.
- 0-2 points: Research question/objectives lack clarity or specificity; not effectively aligned and lacking critical inquiry or creativity.

Points:

Comments:

### Literature Review and Theoretical Framework (15 points)

- 13-15 points: Comprehensive literature review with profound critical analysis; exceptional integration with a robust theoretical framework; deeply reflective engagement with literature. Demonstrates innovative connections and critical curiosity in synthesizing literature and developing theoretical insights.
- 10-12 points: Thorough literature review with critical analysis; strong integration with theoretical framework evident; reflective engagement with literature. Shows evidence of creativity in connecting literature sources and developing theoretical perspectives.
- 7-9 points: Literature review shows adequate depth and some critical analysis; theoretical framework is developed and integrated. Demonstrates attempts at critical inquiry and creativity in synthesizing literature and developing theoretical frameworks.
- 4-6 points: Literature review is present but lacks depth or critical analysis; theoretical framework is somewhat developed. Shows minimal critical inquiry or creativity in literature synthesis and theoretical development.
- 0-3 points: Limited or missing literature review; theoretical framework is weak or poorly integrated, lacking critical inquiry and creativity.

Points:

Comments:

### Methodology and Data Analysis (15 points)

- 13-15 points: Methodology is thoroughly detailed and highly appropriate; data analysis is rigorously conducted and presented with exceptional clarity and depth. Demonstrates innovative selection or adaptation of methodologies and rigorous data analysis with critical insight.
- 10-12 points: Clear and appropriate methodology described with sufficient detail; rigorous data analysis conducted and well-presented. Shows evidence of creativity in selecting or adapting methodologies and conducting data analysis.
- 7-9 points: Methodology is clear but may lack some detail or rigor; data analysis is conducted with moderate rigor and clarity. Demonstrates attempts at creativity in methodology selection or adaptation and data analysis.
- 4-6 points: Methodology is described but lacks detail or clarity; data analysis is somewhat rudimentary or incomplete. Shows minimal creativity in methodology selection or data analysis.
- 0-3 points: Methodology is inadequately described or inappropriate; data analysis lacks rigor or clarity, lacking creativity.

Points:            Comments:

### Findings and Conclusion (15 points)

- 13-15 points: Clear, insightful findings presented with strong relevance to the research question; conclusion synthesizes key insights effectively; critical reflection evident. Demonstrates innovative interpretations of findings and critical reflection on implications.
- 10-12 points: Findings are clear and relevant to the research question; conclusion synthesizes key insights effectively; some critical reflection evident. Shows evidence of creativity in interpreting findings and reflecting critically on implications.
- 7-9 points: Findings are clear but may lack full depth or significance; conclusion synthesizes some insights but lacks critical reflection. Demonstrates attempts at creative interpretation of findings and reflection on implications.
- 4-6 points: Findings are somewhat clear but lack depth or significance; conclusion is limited in scope or lacks critical reflection. Shows minimal creativity in interpreting findings or reflecting critically.
- 0-3 points: Findings are unclear, inconclusive, or poorly linked to the research question; conclusion lacks synthesis or critical reflection, lacking creativity.

Points:            Comments:

### Contribution to Knowledge and Originality (15 points)

- 13-15 points: Exceptional contribution with highly original research or insights; significantly advances knowledge in the field.
- 10-12 points: Significant contribution demonstrated through original research or innovative insights; adds substantial new knowledge to the field.
- 7-9 points: Noticeable contribution with some original insights; adds new knowledge to the field.
- 4-6 points: Some contribution, but limited in scope or depth; shows moderate originality and creativity.
- 0-3 points: Little to no contribution to the field; lacks originality or significance.

Points:            Comments:

### Clarity, Coherence, and Structure (10 points)

- 9-10 points: Exceptionally clear and engaging writing with logical presentation of ideas; well-organized structure with seamless transitions and a strong logical progression. Reflective tone is evident.
- 7-8 points: Writing is clear, concise, and engaging; ideas are logically presented. Structure includes a clear introduction, coherent body, and logical conclusion; transitions are smooth.
- 5-6 points: Writing is mostly clear and engaging, with minor issues in coherence; ideas are presented logically. Structure is generally clear with some minor disruptions in flow; logical progression is mostly maintained.
- 3-4 points: Some sections are clear, but overall coherence is lacking; language may be somewhat confusing. Structure is somewhat clear but may be disjointed in places; flow is interrupted.
- 0-2 points: Writing is unclear, convoluted, or overly technical; difficult to follow. Structure is poorly organized, lacks coherence, or has no logical progression.

Points:            Comments:

### Grammar and Style (5 points)

- 5 points: Writing is virtually error-free with polished style and effective use of language.
- 4 points: Minimal grammatical errors and clear phrasing; style is generally effective and appropriate.
- 3 points: Few grammatical errors with generally clear phrasing; minor issues do not detract significantly from readability.
- 2 points: Some grammatical errors and awkward phrasing present, but not overly distracting.
- 1 point: Numerous grammatical errors and awkward phrasing detract from readability.

Points:            Comments:

### Critical Reflection (15 points)

- 13-15 points: Exceptional critical reflection, with profound insights into the process and outcomes, and a comprehensive strategy for continued growth and improvement.
- 10-12 points: Exhibits thorough critical reflection, with a nuanced understanding of the project's strengths and weaknesses and a clear plan for future development.
- 7-9 points: Demonstrates thoughtful reflection on the process, with insightful analysis of the project's successes and areas for growth.
- 4-6 points: Shows some reflection on the process, but lacks depth or critical analysis of the project's strengths and weaknesses.
- 0-3 points: Limited reflection on the process or outcomes, with little insight into strengths, weaknesses, or areas for improvement.

Points:            Comments:

Total: