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# Pathfinder Grading Explanation

The Pathfinder is worth a total of 80 points. this includes the Pathfinder itself, several evalutions and a review of a classmate's Pathfinder. Below are the guidelines that will be used to determine points for the Pathfinder. Each source requires a MLA citation and an annotation that follows the guidelines given for a descriptive and critical annotation.

**Reminder: Late Pathfinders will not be graded. Pathfinders are due the last Sunday of the quarter. Mark your calendars!**

**Introduction - 6 points total**

6 = Clearly describes the research topic, its scope, and its relevance as a global topic. Provides specific examples to illustrate statements. Written in well-composed sentences that form 2-3 paragraphs. Very few spelling and grammar errors. Cites every source used in the essay. Include complete MLA citation for sources cited.

4 = Describes the research topic, scope, and relevance as a global topic. No examples are given. Most of the content is clear. Some spelling and grammar errors. Some sources cited using in-text citation. Some MLA citations are included.

2 = Minimal description of the topic and its relevance as a global topic. Paragraphs and sentences are poorly composed or formatted in bullet points. Many spelling and grammar errors. No sources are cited. Not MLA citations are included.

0 = No introduction included

**Topic Analysis - 7 points total**

1 = for each section that includes relevant content

0 = content is incorrect or absent

\*Academic disciplines

\*LC Subject Headings

\*Keywords

\*Important databases

\*Relevant organization

\*Statistical source

\*Description of experience using subject headings and keywords

**Sources - 40 points total**

Points will be awarded for required sources only. (For example, if you include three books, only the first two will earn points.)

4 points total for each required source:

**Citation:**

2 = Citation is complete and correct. Minor punctuation errors acceptable.

1 = Citation is mostly complete and correct. 1 or 2 MLA format errors and other minor errors acceptable.

0= Citation is absent or not in MLA format or Citation is “cut and pasted” directly from the source or database without correct formatting.

**Annotation:**

2 = Annotation is clearly written, follows annotation guidelines. The annotation is both descriptive and critical (evaluative). Identifies the source, the authority of the author or the site, describes the content and relates the content to your research topic.

1 = Annotation is mostly clearly written. Includes informal style inappropriate to an annotation.

0 = Annotation is absent.

Reference sources (2 sources) 8 Points

one general encyclopedia

one subject encyclopedia

Best Books (2 sources) 8

Periodical Articles (3 sources) 12

Internet Sources (2 sources) 8

Non-print source (1 source) 4

**Review of the research process - 10 points total**

10 = Clearly describes your experience researching this topic and notes anything interesting or surprising that you discovered. Provides specific examples to illustrate statements. Identifies the nature of your topic and identifies the most important sources based on the nature of the topic. Demonstrates critical thinking about your topic and the information sources available. Written in well-composed sentences that form a least three long paragraphs. Very few spelling and grammar errors.

8 = As above but minimal examples are given. Most of the content is clear. Some spelling and grammar errors.

4 = Includes some of the above but not all elements. Paragraphs and sentences are poorly composed or formatted in bullet points. Many spelling and grammar errors.

0 = No introduction included

**Overall Selection of Sources - 4 points total**

Note: This section will be evaluated based on the annotations and your introduction and review of the research process.

4 = Excellent selection of sources. Sources are clearly relevant to the stated research topic. Different aspects or facets of a topic are covered by the selected sources. Sources provide multiple perspectives on the topic.

3 = Some sources are missing or marginally relevant. Most sources are relevant to the stated research topic. Some important aspects are not represented in the selected sources

1 = Many sources are missing or irrelevant to the topic. Topic is not well represented by the sources

selected.

0 = Sources do not relate to the topic.

**Overall Presentation - 3 points total**

3 = Well organized Pathfinder with consistent fonts, headings, and colors. Each section is clearly labeled. Minimal typographical errors.

2 = Mostly consistent fonts, headings, and colors. Some typographical errors that detract from the

overall presentation.

1 = Minimal effort to organize and present content. Fonts, headings, and colors used very inconsistently or not at all.

0 = Content not presented with appropriate formatting to assist the reader. Headings difficult to identify.

**Pathfinder 70 points**

**Review of Classmate's Pathfinder 5 points**

**Self-Evaluation/ Course & Instructor Evaluation 5 points**

**Grand Total: 80 Points**