

## NTR Nutrition Research - Grading Rubric for Thesis Chapter 5

Elements: Scale: →	20%	50%		
	Content Coverage <sup>1</sup>	Content Depth <sup>1,2</sup>	Content Accuracy	Flow & Clarity
<b>4</b> <b>Excellent; Exceeds Requirements at an Exceptional Level</b>	Every paragraph works to support or discuss hypothesis/es. Conclusion effectively discusses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study outcomes, linking to hypothesis/es.</li> <li>Comparison of key outcomes of this study to those found by other researchers (2-3 pages) – similarities and differences? Why might the results differ? Generalizability?</li> <li>Limitations of this study? Be specific. Go beyond summary to provide suggestions for improvements in this study.</li> <li>The contribution or meaning of this study.</li> <li>Areas of future research (specific examples).</li> <li>Applications to nutrition professionals.</li> </ul>	Content coverage of all points is in appropriate depth and detail.  For the literature review connection, results of many relevant research studies are reported. Discussion is targeted, and key outcomes are compared (providing statistical results as support, as appropriate).  Opinions are grounded in research. Suggestions are pertinent, inventive, and described in adequate depth.  <b>AND</b> Consistently addresses the appropriate audience (i.e., entry-level nutritionist/RD).	There are no errors of accuracy in content or description, including having no misleading statements. Solutions supported by evidence previously discussed in thesis.  Minor errors are confined to 1 sentence; major errors extend into connected sentences or entire paragraph. Errors include <i>unfounded</i> opinions.	Strong transitions between points in conclusion; strong flow. Narrative is well developed.  Writing style is clear and concise (succinct). Does not use bullet points.
<b>3.5</b> <b>Very Good; Exceeds Requirements</b>	Excellent topic coverage and all relevant subtopics included, <b>BUT</b> also includes some unrelated or irrelevant information.	Approximately 12% of discussion depth missing.	1-2 minor errors.	Excellent logical progression with a couple of areas of redundancy. <b>OR</b> Logical progression the majority of the time (rarely "choppy").
<b>3</b> <b>Good; Meets Minimal Standards</b>	Excellent topic coverage of all points, except little to no discussion of future research or little to no suggestions for improvement of this study.	Approximately 25% of discussion depth missing.	3 minor errors.	Needs slight reorganization, but basic flow present. But, not all paragraphs flow in a natural and logical manner (occasionally "choppy", lacking transitions). May have a few areas of redundancy.
<b>2</b> <b>Fair; Below Minimal Standard; Does Not Meet Requirements; Revisions Needed; Writing below entry-level nutritionist/RD</b>	Excellent topic coverage of all points, except little to no discussion of applications to nutrition professionals.	Approximately 50% of discussion depth missing.	4 minor errors. <b>OR</b> 1 major error.	Needs significant reorganization of paragraphs (several paragraphs are "choppy"). <b>OR</b> Writing overly wordy and somewhat redundant. Sentences may run on <b>OR</b> overuse of quotations <b>OR</b> inappropriately using bullet points.
<b>1</b> <b>Poor; Significantly Below Standards; Needs Substantial Revisions</b>	Little to no literature review connection to study.	Literature review significantly lacking depth. <b>OR</b> >2 areas moderately lacking depth. <b>OR</b> approximately 75% of discussion depth missing.	5 minor errors. <b>OR</b> 1 major error and 1-2 minor errors	Many sentences do not flow in a logical manner. Little or no transitions between paragraphs. The conclusion has little to no direction, and is disjointed.
<b>0</b> <b>Very Substandard or Absent</b>	Mostly to entirely missing ≥ 2 level 4 criteria.	Plagiarism. <b>OR</b> Excessive use of quotations.	> 5 minor errors. <b>OR</b> > 1 major error. <b>OR</b> 1 major error with > 2 minor error.	Writing is too convoluted to know what is trying to be expressed.

1. Plagiarism is rewarded with a 0% on the *entire* assignment (chapter 5).
2. Accuracy, flow and clarity impact depth. Depth has most of the grade weight.

## NTR Nutrition Research - Grading Rubric for Thesis Chapter 5

Elements: Scale: →	20%	10%	Lose points if not formatted properly
Grammar, Spelling, Vocabulary Use <sup>3</sup> and Improvement	References	Format of Manuscript	
<b>4</b> <b>Excellent; Exceeds Requirements at an Exceptional Level I</b>	Use APA format for grammar. <b>Written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person</b> No more than two individual departures per page from Edited Standard Written English (ESWE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of active voice when appropriate.</li> <li>• Sentences correct grammatically</li> <li>• Sentences correct mechanically (e.g., mid and end of sentence punctuation, apostrophes, capitalization)</li> <li>• Proper verb forms and tense. Agreement of subject and verb.</li> <li>• Sentence structure varies</li> <li>• Two spaces following periods.</li> <li>• Use of quotation marks correct, if used.</li> <li>• No errors in spelling (a typo counts as a misspelling).</li> <li>• Proper sentence sense (no words omitted, scrambled, or incomprehensible)</li> </ul>	Format correct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sources are cited when specific claims are made and results reported.</li> <li>• Sources are listed on a separate reference page.</li> <li>• Citations and reference page listings adhere to <i>J Amer Diet Assoc (JAMA)</i> format.</li> </ul> The student should have 60 or more total references.	Adheres to the <i>Thesis Manual</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate use and format of headers.</li> <li>• Appropriate use and format of subtitles.</li> <li>• Margins : 1" top, bottom and right margins ; 1.5" left margin</li> <li>• 12 pt. Font size.</li> <li>• Consistent font use: times roman, arial, or similar font style.</li> <li>• Double space (<i>only</i>– no extra spaces between paragraphs).</li> <li>• Left-justify (paragraph indentations consistent in size)</li> <li>• Page numbers centered and formatted correctly.</li> <li>• White paper.</li> </ul>
<b>3.5</b> <b>Very Good; Exceeds Requirements</b>	Sentence structure may be too repetitive. Only few distracting errors in sentence mechanics and grammar. 3 avg. departures from ESWE per page.	1-3 individual errors, <b>BUT</b> has at least 55 total references. <b>NOTE:</b> Errors include improper or lack of citations within the body of the paper, and format (e.g., punctuation, italics, content, format for author name).	
<b>3</b> <b>Good; Meets Minimal Standards</b>	Sentence structure may be too repetitive. Several distracting errors in sentence mechanics and grammar. 4 avg. departures from ESWE per page.	4-6 individual errors.	1 of the following formatting errors: improper margin width, indentations, or extra spacing between paragraphs. <b>(Minus 2.5 points)</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Fair; Below Minimal Standard; Does Not Meet Requirements; Revisions Needed; Writing below entry-level nutritionist/RD.</b>	Sentence structure too repetitive. Many distracting errors in sentence mechanics and grammar. Redundancy - student makes comment "as previously stated" in paper. 5-6 avg. departures from ESWE per page.	7-12 individual errors <b>OR</b> 10-25% of references are newsletters &/or lay magazines &/or questionable web references &/or books (that are not written by author of the theory) <b>OR</b> less than 35 total references	1 format error not listed in above cell, <b>OR</b> 2 total format components missing or in error. <b>(Minus 5 points)</b>
<b>1</b> <b>Poor; Significantly Below Standards; Needs Substantial Revisions</b>	<b>Written in 1<sup>st</sup> person.</b> <b>OR</b> Most of paper in need of revision in terms of sentence structure (grammar and mechanics). Use of > 5 bullet points. 7-8 avg. departures from ESWE per page.	13-19 individual errors <b>OR</b> > 25% of references are newsletters &/or lay magazines &/or questionable web references &/or books (that are not written by author of the theory)	3-4 format components missing or in error. <b>(Minus 7.5 points)</b>
<b>0</b> <b>Very Substandard or Absent</b>	Sentence structure (mechanics and grammar) so poor it is difficult to read. >8 avg. departures from ESWE per page.	> 20 individual errors <b>OR</b> no citations within manuscript. <b>OR</b> no reference page.	> 4 other format components missing or in error. <b>(Minus 10 points)</b>

3. From Barbara Walvoord, *Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment*. Eds. Barbara E. Walvoord and Virginia Johnson Anderson. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998.