

RESEARCH PAPER

An entry consists of a research paper written in an essay format acceptable for a term paper or thesis, including a list of works cited. Authors will score best with original thesis or synthesis papers whose findings apply directly to medieval re-enactment. Summary research is acceptable. Research notes written in an attractive style or as a newspaper article are not acceptable. Entrants in this category should consult a current term paper or thesis stylebook, such as the Chicago Manual of Style, before creating an entry. Any evidence of plagiarism will disqualify an entry.

DOCUMENTATION (0-30 points, SCORED 1-10 then MULTIPLY BY 3) Rate the provability of the entrant's research. Consider the quality of the sources and citations used.

- 0: No citations or bibliography;
- 1: Use of citations only; use of bibliography only; use of either in an inadequate form. Source material is of a general nature; no primary sources are used;
- 2-3: Acceptable annotation and bibliography; use of secondary sources but minimal on primary sources. Author collects and organizes facts from multiple sources, but does not develop original research;
- 4-5: Acceptable annotation and bibliography, following a single standardized format; excellent citation alone; excellent bibliography alone; very good critical sources are used. Author proposes a thesis;
- 6: Good use of citation and bibliography; citations indicate adequate choice of source materials for supporting the thesis statement;
- 7-8: Good use of citation and bibliography; citations indicate very good choice and use of critical source materials for supporting the thesis statement;
- 9-10: Superior handling of all phases of documentation. Excellent citation and bibliography; excellent choice of critical source materials, including specialized references directly related to the subject material and/or primary sources incorporated appropriately that fully support the stated thesis.

AUTHENTICITY (0-20 points, SCORED 1-10 and then DOUBLE THE SCORE) Judge the applicability of the paper's subject matter to other SCA members studying the subject.

- 0: Subject matter of the paper is out of period or not relevant to an SCA activity;
- 1-2: Subject matter of the paper is out of period and has very limited relevancy to an SCA activity;
- 3-4: Subject matter of the paper is out of period but is applicable to an SCA activity to some extent;
- 5-6: Subject matter of the paper is period, but not written for an SCA audience;
- 7-8: Subject matter of the paper is period and an attempt has been made to be as thorough as possible and adapt the subject to the audience;
- 9-10: Subject matter of the paper is period and it has relevance to an SCA member. It is written with an SCA audience in mind.

COMPLEXITY (0-10 points) Rank the ambition, not the success, of the entry for:

- Scope of the argument - Does the author set forth their thesis statement and support it within the page limit that they chose?;

- Thoroughness of the research - How well did the author reasonably pursue information available on the chosen topic? Does the choice of research method fit the topic?;
- Validity - Did the author use quality source material? What methods did the author use to validate their references? Are sources and methods used correctly? Is any experimental design logically consistent?;
- Complexity of the subject matter - A paper with a focused, in-depth topic should score better than a broad-sweeping generalized paper (e.g., a paper on 16th century Maiolica should score higher than one on Iberian pottery. The paper on Iberian pottery should score higher than one on the generalized subject of medieval ceramics);
- Extent - Does the author use research methods other than library research, e.g. experimentation, artefact examination, or statistical analysis, where appropriate? Originality - Does the topic cover new research? Does it suggest a new approach to an established topic?;
- Detail of the topic - Does the author present adequate supporting material to defend the thesis statement?;
- Cohesiveness of the paper - Does it flow well from paragraph to paragraph? Are points clearly outlined and explained?

WORKMANSHIP (3-30 points, SCORE 1-10 then MULTIPLY BY 3) How well is the entry written?

- Accuracy - Are the facts presented accurately? Are quotes taken in proper context?;
- Concept flow - Is the paper well organized and logical? Did the author develop their thesis and use well-constructed arguments to prove it? Is there a conclusion?;
- Clarity - Is it easy to identify, follow and analyze the author's position?;
- Level of detail - Is the detail appropriate to size and scope of research?;
- Language - Rate the use of grammar, punctuation, spelling, word choice, and sentence structure;
- Citation of sources in a standard format.

OVERALL IMPRESSION (1-10 points) Judge the paper's overall effect, rating the appeal beyond the technical proficiency. Include effectiveness, uniqueness of presentation, and interestingness of the subject matter.