

NORTHSHIELD ARTS AND SCIENCES SCORING SHEET
RESEARCH PAPER

Entrant's Name: _____
Judge's Name: _____
Judge's Contact Info: _____
Item Description: _____
Division: _____

TOPIC: _____/10

An evaluation of the initial research question and the argument of the paper. This does not include the organization, presentation, or format of the paper. Is the topic relevant to the Society for Creative Anachronism's periods of study? Is the topic well-defined and well-developed? Is the topic original or present new information or theories?

1-2: Topic is poorly defined, is based on items that are outside the timeframe of the SCA or the paper's argument is unclear.

3-4: Research question is on a topic immediately relevant to the SCA's period of study. The paper's argument is supported by examples from at least one primary source or at least three scholarly sources.

5-6: Clear research question on a topic immediately relevant to the SCA's period of study. The paper's argument is well-reasoned and supported by examples from primary sources and/or scholarly sources, but may not be exhaustive and does not necessarily present any new information on the topic.

7-8: Very well defined research question on a topic immediately relevant to the SCA's period of study. The paper addresses multiple aspects of the question, including acknowledgement of or responses to previous research in that field and a thorough discussion of relevant primary sources. Some contribution of new knowledge is made.

9-10: Excellently defined research question on a topic immediately relevant to the SCA's period of study. The paper's argument includes a well-developed commentary in all areas, use of primary sources, discussion of previous scholarship in the field, and explanation of original research and/or experiments. The paper is on a unique or understudied topic or presents new theories, processes, or interpretations of a more established topic.

Topic Comments: _____

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES:

_____ / 10

An evaluation of the entrant's use of sources and research methods as well as the accuracy of how the information is presented. A discussion of the attempts to locate sources should be provided.

1-2: The research paper uses exclusively sources that are tertiary, popular press, or non-scholarly internet sources.

3-4: The paper incorporates information from some primary or scholarly sources but still relies heavily on tertiary, popular press, or non-scholarly internet sources. Sources of information may be unclear.

5-6: Most of the sources referenced are primary or scholarly sources. Important ideas are cited and information is provided accurately. Sources are discussed and evaluated by the entrant, not just presented.

7-8: Many sources of information are evaluated and discussed, including primary sources and scholarly sources. All facts are cited, presented accurately, and used in appropriate contexts.

9-10: All reasonable sources of information are thoroughly critically evaluated and discussed, including primary sources and scholarly sources. All facts are cited, presented accurately, and used in appropriate contexts. Experimental, observational, or mathematical methods of validating the conclusions are used, if appropriate.

Materials & Techniques Comments: _____

WORKMANSHIP:

_____ / 10

Workmanship assesses the technical skills used in production of the text and the resulting quality of the paper. This can take into account grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, clarity, citations, bibliography, and overall readability of the paper. Any consistent citation format may be used.

1-2: The paper has significant issues with that substantially interfere with the reader's ability to understand the entrant's argument or there are no citations or bibliography present.

3-4: The paper has noticeable concerns with technical details or overall readability that make it difficult to follow the entrant's argument or problems with the citations or bibliography make it difficult to verify sources.

5-6: Only minor concerns with technical details or overall readability. Citations are present in most places where they are needed and the bibliography is reasonably complete. Images are used where appropriate.

7-8: Few, if any, issues with technical details or overall readability. Citations are adequate and the bibliography is complete. Formatting of text and citations is uniformly complete and correct. Images are used where appropriate.

9-10: Paper is neat and well-constructed throughout. Formatting of text and citations is uniformly complete and correct. The paper is closely cited and the bibliography is complete. Pictures, charts, graphs, and other visual aids are used to good effect and may include original illustrations.

Workmanship Comments: _____

COMPLEXITY: _____/10

This is an assessment of the difficulty and scope of the entry and is meant to rank the ambition of the research, not the workmanship of the paper. This can include a consideration of research factors like the need to perform translations or experiments or the decision to pursue an obscure topic.

1-2: The paper mostly consists of facts reported from a limited number of sources, with little or no analysis or discussion of the material.

3-4: The paper uses a limited number of sources to present information. While the information is organized in some manner to make it more accessible, there is limited analysis.

5-6: The paper collects and analyzes information from several sources. The conclusion is supported by information from the relevant sources.

7-8: The paper collects and analyzes information from many high-quality sources. The conclusion is supported by information from the relevant sources. Some advanced research techniques are required (i.e., depth of research, difficulty of topic, translations, experiments, etc.).

9-10: The research question was fully investigated, including collecting and analyzing information from many high-quality sources. A conclusion is presented, complete with supporting arguments and data. One or more advanced research techniques are required (i.e., depth of research, difficulty of topic, translations, experiments, etc.) and an original idea or significant new insight is provided by the work.

Complexity Comments: _____

JUDGES DISCRETION: (0-3 POINTS) _____/3

Judges can give entrants extra points for any WOW factor, including, but not limited to: outstanding presentation, authenticity, skill, depth of research, or experimentation required.

Judges Discretion Comments: _____

ENTRY SCORES TOTAL

DOCUMENTATION _____
MATERIALS & TECHNIQUES _____
WORKMANSHIP _____
COMPLEXITY _____
OVERALL IMPRESSION _____

TOTAL POINTS: _____