

# *The Perfect I- Search Paper Checklist*

**Part 1: The story of why you need to research this topic. (20 points) \_\_\_\_\_ x 2= \_\_\_\_\_**

- An interesting hook
- A narrative which “shows” not “tells”
- Details are relevant to purpose
- A specific incident full of action verbs

**Part 2: What you know, assume, and need to know? (10 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

- Complete articulation of what you knew before starting research
- Detailed explanation of your assumptions and suppositions (guesses)
- Three to five specific research questions you have formulated

**Part 3: A reflection on your research process. (10 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

- Specific examples of obstacles you faced and options you explored
- At least two specific examples of how you evaluated both credibility and bias of sources
- A discussion of how you developed multiple perspectives or cross-referenced sources
- A reflection on what you learned about researching (e.g., What advice do you have for next year’s I-Searchers or what did you learn about researching that you did not know before?)

**Part 4: The research and your final conclusion. (40 points) \_\_\_\_\_ x 4 = \_\_\_\_\_**

- Abundant research presented from at least 3 sources (one must be an interview)
- Paragraphs organized by research question or another organizational strategy.
- Each idea cited parenthetically.
- 85 percent score earned on Safe Assignments
- Research synthesized into a satisfying conclusion

■ **Part 5: Overall writing quality. (20 points)**

- Voice expresses a commitment to your topic
- Smooth transitions connect parts 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Word choice is vivid and precise
- Sentences vary in length and structure (reads aloud well)
- Essentially error free (spelling, grammar, MLA punctuation)
- Work cited page is complete, accurate, and formatted in MLA style