**PEA Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest Rubric**

**Student Name (PEA 2015–01 to 0--):** ____________________  **Evaluator Name:** ____________________

**Yes Test:** You must receive all “yeses” for your paper to be scored. Any “no” will stop the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th><strong>Basic Requirement</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>1. Paper typed</td>
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<td>2. Thesis clearly stated in the introduction and/or referenced in the conclusion</td>
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<td>3. Correct documentation style used in text</td>
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<td>4. Citing evidence with a minimum of 4 sources</td>
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<td>5. Works Cited/Bibliography or References accurate and correctly formatted</td>
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<td>6. Paper meets minimum length standard (at least 7 pages, excluding title and Works Cited/Bibliography or References)</td>
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<td>7. Paper meets maximum length standard (at most 25 pages including title, abstract, references and appendix)</td>
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<td>8. Evidence of consistent and conscientious editing</td>
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<td>9. Pagination</td>
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<td>10. Use of 12 point font (e.g. Times New Roman font), double spacing, appropriate margins and APA guidelines</td>
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**4—Clearly a knowledgeable, practiced, skilled pattern**

**3—Evidence of a developing pattern**

**2—Superficial, random, limited consistencies**

**1—Unacceptable skill application**

### Use of Sources

**Skill application demonstrates use which represents** ➔ 4 3 2 1

- Researched information appropriately documented
- Enough outside information to clearly represent a research process
- Comprehensiveness of the literature review
- State of references (majority of references should be current and updated)
- Demonstrates use of paraphrasing, direct, and indirect quotations
- Information connects to the thesis
- Sources on Works Cited/Bibliography or References accurately match sources cited within the text

______/28

### Content/Organization

**Skill application demonstrates use which represents** ➔ 4 3 2 1

- Attention grabber effectiveness in abstract
- Introduction engaging and clearly defines thesis and statement of the problem
- Thesis is challenging and focused
- Research motivation and project linkage explained
- Depth of research hypothesis beyond general knowledge
- Depth, comprehension and illustration of content
- Content connecting to thesis is clarifying and exploring
- Content connecting to thesis is explaining and developing
- Soundness of the underlying theory and/or econometric model
- Rigor of the underlying theory and/or econometric model
- Depth of analysis of the theoretical/empirical findings and results
- Consistency of the policy recommendations with the findings
- Text organization flows sensibly and smoothly
- Conclusion thoughtful, engaging, and clear
- Future extension of research clearly explained

______/60

### Mechanics/Usage/Spelling/Format

**Skill application demonstrates use which represents** ➔ 4 3 2 1

- Usage/Grammar and correct spelling
- Correct paragraphing
- Written in formal style

______/12

### Information Literacy

**Skill application demonstrates use which represents** ➔ 4 3 2 1

- Consistent Format (APA)
- Evidence of thorough research
- Documentation demonstrates conscientious application of citing ethics
- Evidence of sorting and selecting appropriate material
- Evidence of importance of author’s credibility and validity
- Research offers non-biased, fair research perspective from which a conclusion is drawn
- Research information goes beyond surface information

______/28

**Total Score: ________/128  Total Percentage: _________%**