Rubric: APA Format Proposal Papers (#2A)

Section & Weight	Target Criteria	Common Deductions
Document Type *(5%, 3.75 pts)*	Submitted as Microsoft Word document.	Submitted as any document type other than MS Word.
General Formatting, Mechanics, Style, & Title Page *(15%, 11.25 pts)*	1" margins, double-spaced, same font used consistently throughout paper. Perfect title page (professional), running head flush left, all caps, and 50 characters or less, page numbers flush right, clear headings (level 1, 2, 3, etc.), and proper 0.5" paragraph indentation. Zero spelling or grammar errors. Professional tone. Areas relating to group's research project written in future verb tense.	Errors in APA style (e.g., inconsistent font, margins slightly off). Title page missing details. Paragraphs are not indented properly. Looks unprofessional. Some or many elements (margins, spacing, font) are wrong. No cover page or incorrect cover page. May contain spelling or grammar errors. Conversational or unprofessional tone.
Abstract *(5%, 3.75 pts)*	**Summarizes all sections** in 150–250 words; includes independent/dependent variables and explicitly stated, clear hypothesis (e.g., It is hypothesized that...). Paragraph is not indented.	Exceeds word count; misses key findings; includes personal opinions or citations. Incorrect formatting; Indented paragraph. Missing hypothesis or unclear research hypothesis.
Introduction & Literature Review *(20%, 15 pts)*	Introduces a clear problem; synthesizes past peer-reviewed studies; ends with an explicit, **testable hypothesis**. Properly APA formatted in-text citations. Contains 3 peer-reviewed, and one additional, citations.	Reads like a list of summaries rather than a synthesis; fails to connect past research to the current hypothesis. Improperly formatted in-text citations. Missing some or all required citations (i.e., 3 peer-reviewed and one additional source).
Methodology *(20%, 15 pts)*	Provides extreme detail across subheadings: **Participants, Materials, and Procedure**. Anyone could exactly replicate the experiment.	Missing anticipated sample sizes, demographic info, or step-by-step procedure; forgets to state the experimental design. Missing detailed description of materials, providing examples of some survey questions. Missing subsections (i.e., Participants, Materials, Procedure).
Statistics *(10%, 7.5 pts)*	Names study variables to be tested, and the types of scales for each variable (i.e., continuous/categorical). Reports the correct statistical test that will be used to evaluate the research hypothesis. (The correct test to use was provided in the Research Project Approval assignment).	Fails to name the study variables; gives incorrect variable scale types (i.e., continuous/categorical); Fails to report the correct statistical test. Provides additional information, conjecture, or opinions instead of, or in addition to, describing the variables, scales, and test to be used.
Discussion *(10%, 7.5 pts)*	Evaluates whether the data supported the hypothesis; links results back to the intro literature; names **limitations and future research directions**.	Merely repeats the Results section data; overstates the impact of findings; ignores alternative explanations or design flaws.
References & Data Display *(15%, 11.25 pts)*	Perfect hanging indents on the reference page; references properly cited using proper punctuation, containing all appropriate APA format elements, and in the correct order; tables have bold numbers and italic titles above the data grid; zero personal pronouns (*"I"*, *"We"*).	Tables look like screenshots or use vertical gridlines; in-text citations do not match references; improperly formatted references; missing elements for some or all reference; references not in alphabetical order.