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<th>Features</th>
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| Explanation & argument        | includes a thesis statement in the introduction that answers a focused research question developed from the topic chosen in the research paper proposal  

paper mainly provides an analysis of a problem but ends with a brief explanation and justification of recommended solutions  

shows clear and effective organization, such as by using (a) a sequence of topic sentences at the beginnings of sections, subsections, and paragraphs that follow a logical outline and (b) unified paragraphs | 15%   |          |
| Technical-Political Science balance | expresses effective synthesis (does not need to be 50/50)                                                                                                                                                        | 15%   |          |
| Accurate use of concepts      | concepts key to audience understanding of the topic you’ve chosen are presented accurately and with an amount of detail that fits your purpose                                                                         | 10%   |          |
| Research, Integration of knowledge, & analysis | provides a thoughtful, informed, and accurate analysis of your answer to the research question  

integrates research effectively (e.g., research is used to support the writer’s explanation and argument (rather than replace it; sources of ideas, facts, words, and expert analysis/opinion are acknowledged)  

selective and thoughtful use of sources aimed at creating new knowledge by synthesizing and extending the work of others through a mix of summary, paraphrase, and quotation | 25%   |          |
| Professional style | congruent with the IJOIS journal article style (and readership)  
security focus (in the class context: nuclear security)  
research-based analysis and conclusions  
uses formal language (concise, not colloquial, precise)  
avoids jargon (i.e., unnecessary and unexplained use of technical language) | 15% | 15% |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conformity to conventions** | 5-6 pages  
includes cover page with an appropriate title and abstract  
includes separate reference page  
includes section headings  
header block and date in correct format (comment, no deduction)  
page numbers (except cover page)  
12-point Times New Roman font throughout (including page numbers)  
1.25" side margins and 1" top margins and .5" bottom margins.  
At least six acceptable sources (includes at least one relevant book, chapter of book, or peer-reviewed paper)  
no more than two assigned readings  
accurate use of APA style for in-text references and reference list  
One error -5, Two -10, three or more -15 | 15% | 15% |
| **Copy editing and use of standard language** | First draft does not need to be perfect as you are expected to make higher order revisions before focusing in on a professional product, but out of courtesy for your readers, this draft should be readable (e.g., with accurate, clear, and organized text). | 5% | 5% |

**Overall Comments:**