

## Teacher Notes: Research Report

Introduction to Mobile Robotics > End of Project Activities > Research Report

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### Overview:

This assessment activity can be assigned once students have completed the Robotics Engineering lessons, or once they are nearing completion. It is an opportunity for students to reflect on and think critically about their robotics experience as a whole over the course of the lessons. It is designed to assess the student's understanding of the aspects involved in robotics and engineering, as well as their ability to communicate their thoughts and impressions with a larger audience.

Given the compositional nature of this assessment method, an “answer key” is inappropriate. Instead, what follows is a list of potential success indicators as well as a sample assessment rubric. Both are meant to be guides to your assessment of your own students, so feel free to modify and amend them as needed to suit your classroom. Only you can know what you expect of your students.

### Success Indicators

- Student has effectively used at least one outside source. Using sources to back up statements shows both that time has been invested in researching the paper and that at least one other person agrees with what is being said.
- Report has a clear introduction, body and conclusion. Appropriate organization and flow are key to writing a good paper of any variety. Check to be sure the paragraphs make sense individually and as a whole.
- Good grammar. Spell checking is easy in word processing applications, but even the best spell-checkers can't always find grammatical problems. Read for grammar as well as for content.
- Ideas are clearly presented and thoughtfully explained. Sometimes the writing can get in the way of what the writer is actually trying to say. Every section of the report should have a main idea that is expanded upon throughout the section in a clear and concise manner.
- Writing is concise. Ideas are clearly explained, but not over-explained, and the length of the paper is necessary for its content (i.e. the paper is not padded with “filler” text that is redundant or unnecessary).

## Research Report Sample Assessment Rubric

	Excellent (A+)	Good (A-B)	Marginal (C-D)	Unacceptable (D-F)
Evidence produced on time (10%)	Report completed before due date and had been revised at least twice.	Report completed on due date and had been revised at least once.	Report completed and within one day after due date.	Report incomplete, or delivered more than one day after due date.
Research (25%)	Report effectively makes use of information from a variety of outside sources, including human, print and online.	Report effectively makes use of information from more than one outside source.	Report cites information from outside sources out of context. Citations do not add validity to statements.	Report does not include information from any outside sources and is solely the opinion of the author
Presentation (25%)	Well-written report, making effective use of both visual aids and good grammar and spelling.	Correct grammar and organized report structure. Uses visual aids where necessary.	Some grammatical errors. Report does not flow coherently from one section to the next. Visual aids not used effectively.	Many grammatical errors. No applicable visual aids where appropriate. Content unorganized from one section to the next
Demonstration of Understanding (40%)	Content of report demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic chosen and of research used within report.	Content of report demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic chosen and of broad implications related to it.	Content of report demonstrates a fair understanding of the topic, but not of the larger implications of the topic.	Content of report demonstrates a poor understanding of the topic chosen and larger implications of the topic.