**Research Paper 300 points: (1 Paper worth 300 points). Submit via the assignment tab and the Week 6 discussion forum.**

Research Paper. Due by Day 7 of Week 6. Write an 8-10 page research paper on an accounting or financial controversial topic of student’s choice. This may be a past, current, or potential future controversial topic. Please email the instructor with any questions regarding your topic.

**Research Paper Grading Rubric**

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|  | **Excellent Achievement** | **Advanced Achievement** | **Basic Achievement** | **Subpar Achievement** | **Failed to Achieve** |
| **Presentation** | | | | | |
| 20% | Cover page included. Pages numbered.  Ten or more pages counting cover page and references. APA guidelines used (references included and cited in-paragraph). | Cover page included. Pages numbered.  Nine pages counting cover page and references. APA guidelines used (references included and cited in-paragraph). | Cover page included. Pages numbered.  Eight pages counting cover page and references. APA guidelines used (references included and cited in-paragraph). | Cover page not included.  Pages not numbered.  APA guidelines used, but references not cited in-paragraph. | Less than eight pages.  APA guidelines not used. |
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| **Issue Memo** | | | | | |
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| **Written communication (40%)** | Purpose of paper is evident, AND  -no problems in organization (paper flows logically), AND  -minor if any incorrect usage and spelling | Purpose of paper is evident, AND  -few problems in organization (overall, paper flows logically), AND  -few if any problems with usage and spelling | Purpose of paper is evident , AND  -some problems in organization (lack of flow), OR  -some problems with usage and spelling | Purpose of paper is not evident, OR  -paper lacks organization, OR  -major problems with usage and spelling | Purpose of paper is not evident, AND  -paper lacks organization, AND  -major problems with usage and spelling |
| **Analysis and Problem Solving (40%)** | Clearly and thoroughly defines all accounting research issues, gives the background, and defines the scope. Assesses the implications of the findings; concisely draws a proper conclusion in line with relevant findings, discusses financial statement and disclosure impacts; clarifies assumptions, unknowns, and possible future adjustments. | Defines the research issue(s) and gives background and scope of research; analyses most of the implications if not addressed; draws a concise conclusion but addresses only a few key factors ; little discussion of future needs | States but doesn’t define the research issues; assesses only 1-2 findings; conclusion does not thoroughly address the question addressing only a few key factors; little discussion of impact on financial statements or disclosure | Presents a vague problem and only mentions one implication; suggests ways to address problem but has little detail or citing of sources; no discussion of the future impact | Accounting research issues are not defined; analysis is absent; no discussion of how impact and very weak conclusions |