1. Rationale (20 points)
   a. why the research is important,
   b. the researcher's take on the topic
   c. provides conceptual definitions of major constructs

2. Literature Review (20 points)
   a. shows what is known and unknown about the topic
   b. used to support the researcher's arguments (evidence)
   c. research questions/Hypothesis: the questions the researcher would like to know more about
      i. follows from the lit review
      ii. clearly stated

3. Methods (20 points)
   a. Sampling
      i. Type
      ii. Number of people sampled
      iii. Demographics
   b. Procedures: processes used
   c. Measures/Statistical Tests
      i. Operational definitions
      ii. Measures include reliabilities from previous studies as well as in the current study
      iii. Appropriate statistical measure used

4. Results: results of the statistical tests (report them only) (20 points)
   a. Includes sample size, means, and standard deviations
   b. Results reported correctly

   [NOTE: For qualitative research projects, the Methods and Results sections are different. The methods section should still talk about sampling and procedures. Some justification must be given for the methods chosen. The Results section is more appropriately titled "Analysis" and is done as a combination of "Results" and "Interpretation". Both sections are still worth a possible 20 points each.]

5. Conclusion (20 points)
   a. Interpretation: what the results mean. Do not interpret beyond what the data reveals.
   b. Limitations: reasons why the interpretation of the results should be viewed with some caution.
   c. Future directions: issues that future research needs to resolve.
   d. Conclusion: the take home message from the study. What we know now that we didn’t know before based on this study in relation to other research in this area.

6. References (20 points)
   a. An alphabetical list of references in APA Style.
   b. Includes Appendixes (added as needed). Measures are often included here as are charts, tables, and other graphics.
7. APA Formatting (40 points)
   a. Of document
   b. In body citations
   c. Of references

8. Overall (40 points)
   a. Cohesiveness and flow of document
   b. Overall quality of the abstract

Total Points: 200 points

Final NOTE: As you can see, the emphasis is on the finished product and not the individual parts. Make sure that you have a coherent document correctly formatted. If this means rewriting sections, then so be it. Research is an iterative process. Revise, revise, revise!