# Exploratory Essay Rubric

This rubric connects to the following Campus-Wide Outcomes: Critical Thinking, Responsibility, and Written Communication: see other side of page for definitions of these items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evidence of Systematic Research (Critical Thinking 2.1)</td>
<td>Provides a superior number, quality, and diversity of sources (20-18)</td>
<td>Provides an effective number, quality, and diversity of sources (17-16)</td>
<td>Number, quality, and diversity of sources is sufficient (15-14)</td>
<td>Number, quality, or diversity of sources is insufficient (13-11)</td>
<td>Sources were not used (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evidence of Reactions to Research (Critical Thinking 2.4)</td>
<td>Impact of research on thinking about topic is explicitly discussed in all body paragraphs (20-18)</td>
<td>Impact of research on thinking about topic is explicitly discussed in most body paragraphs (17-16)</td>
<td>Impact of research on thinking about topic is explicitly discussed in some body paragraphs and/or implied in others (15-14)</td>
<td>Impact of research on thinking about topic is discussed and/or implied in few body paragraphs (13-11)</td>
<td>Impact of research on thinking about topic is not discussed; essay is a report on the topic (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Evidence of Effective Citation of Sources (Written Communication 1.5 and Responsibility 3.5)</td>
<td>Sources are all correctly cited both in text and on the works cited page according to MLA format (15-14.5)</td>
<td>Sources are correctly cited both in text and on the works cited page according to MLA format with minor lapses (14.4-12)</td>
<td>Sources are correctly cited both in text and on the works cited page according to MLA format for the most part with a small number of serious errors (11-10.5)</td>
<td>Sources are not consistently correctly cited both in text and on the works cited page according to MLA format (10.4-9)</td>
<td>Sources are cited using another format or citations are missing (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evidence of Effective Organization (Written Communication 1.2)</td>
<td>Superior use of organizational tools such as focus statements, topic sentences and transitions (20-18)</td>
<td>Effective use of organizational tools such as focus statements, topic sentences and transitions (17-16)</td>
<td>Organizational tools such as focus statements, topic sentences and transitions are used (15-14)</td>
<td>Organizational tools such as focus statements, topic sentences and transitions are used inconsistently (13-11)</td>
<td>Did not use of organizational tools (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evidence of Effective Proofreading (Written Communication 1.4)</td>
<td>Draft demonstrates the writer has used extremely effective proofreading techniques (20-18)</td>
<td>Draft demonstrates the writer has used effective proofreading techniques (17-16)</td>
<td>Draft demonstrates the writer has used proofreading techniques (15-14)</td>
<td>Draft demonstrates inconsistently effective proofreading techniques (13-11)</td>
<td>Draft does not demonstrate the use of proofreading techniques (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Evidence of Effective Presentation (Written Communication 1.8, Responsibility 3.1)</td>
<td>Draft follows all requirements for MLA format (5)</td>
<td>Draft follows most requirements for MLA format, though with minor errors such as extra spaces between lines or missing header information (4)</td>
<td>Draft follows many requirements for MLA format, but there may be a few serious mistakes such as missing heading information, single spacing or margin issues (3.5)</td>
<td>Draft inconsistently follows requirements for MLA format. All of the issues in the B and C ranges may be present, and other errors (3)</td>
<td>Draft does not follow requirements for MLA format (2.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
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