



The Lantern English Co.
The Advanced Writer

The Exploratory Research Paper – Syllabus

Course Description: Exploratory writing begins with a question. Research is then conducted to find potential answers that are shared with readers. This course guides the student through the process of writing an exploratory research paper of 1800-2200 words. Students learn how to develop a research question, choose and analyze a minimum of ten sources, group sources by potential answer, and organize a successful exploratory paper. Students enrolled in this class should already be comfortable with writing a standard middle/high school research paper, utilizing a variety of sources, and constructing a bibliography and works cited list in MLA format.

Class Outline:

Week One: First Steps

- A. Develop a Research Question
- B. Read and Analyze Sources
- C. Begin the Annotated Bibliography

Week Two: More Research

- A. Finish Reading Sources
- B. Group Sources

Week Three: Organizing the Paper

- A. Understand the Exploratory Paper
- B. Construct an Outline

Week Four: The Rough Draft I

Week Five: Continuing the Rough Draft

Week Six: Finishing the Rough Draft

Week Seven: Revisions

Week Eight: Final Submission



The Exploratory Research Paper

Grading Information: Assignments 1-7 will be averaged together to receive a weekly assignment grade. The final project submitted on Week 8 will receive a separate grade. Both the weekly assignment average and the final project grade will be combined utilizing the weighting seen below:

Course Components	Percentage of Final Grade
Weekly Assignments	40%
Final Paper	60%

Assignments 1-7 will be graded using the following rubric. The final project submitted on Week 8 will be graded using our standard grading rubric for *The Advanced Writer*.

Exemplary 100%	Strong 99%-90%	Proficient 89%-80%	Developing 79%-70%	Emerging 69%-60%	Beginning 59%-50%	No Attempt 49% and below
Student has followed all assignment directions and has demonstrated exemplary understanding of lesson concepts.	Student has followed most assignment directions and has demonstrated strong understanding of lesson concepts.	Student has followed most assignment directions but has struggled to fully understand lesson concepts.	Student has followed some or most assignment directions but has demonstrated a need for better understanding of lesson concepts.	Student has followed some assignment directions but has demonstrated inadequate understanding of lesson concepts.	Student has followed few assignment directions and has demonstrated poor understanding of lesson concepts.	Student has followed few to no assignment directions and has demonstrated no understanding of lesson concepts.
For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted a complete assignment and demonstrated excellent effort.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted a mostly complete assignment and demonstrated strong effort.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted a mostly complete assignment and demonstrated proficient effort.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted mediocre written work and demonstrated some lack of effort.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted inadequate written work so that the instructor finds it difficult to provide helpful feedback.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted short and poorly written work so that the instructor is unable to provide helpful feedback.	For drafts of outline, bibliography, and paper, student has submitted nothing.