

Exploratory Essay Grading Rubric

Yes		No
	1. Original Title and Strong Opener	
	2. Topic is Interesting, Complex, and Not Over-Used	
	3. Issue Question not Information Question (requires author to persuade not just teach)	
	4. Genuine Argument not Pseudo Argument (argument is not already settled by those with expertise and can be debated using logic and evidence not personal taste)	
	5. "Open" Question that Avoids Binary Oppositions (question cannot be broken down into simple pro/con or yes/no categories)	
	6. Question Adequately Explored (examines assumptions, asks questions of the question, asks further questions that keep the issue open)	
	7. Researchable in Scholarly Databases (question is explored by scholars not just in internet forums)	
	8. Paper Organization	
	9. MLA Format	
	10. Mechanics/Grammar/Usage	

(10/10=50; 9/10=45; 8/10=40; 7/10=35; 6/10=30; 5/10=25; 4/10=20; 3/10=15; 2/10=10; 1/10=5)