



Western Libraries Undergraduate Research Awards

Research Reflections Rubric (45 points)

Research Reflection Question #1: What is your research project about and why is it important?				
Criteria	Developing (0-1 points)	Competent (2-3 points)	Exemplary (4-5 points)	Points
<i>Did the applicant(s) sufficiently and concisely describe and summarize their research project?</i>	Fails to offer a coherent summary of their research project.	Provides a readable summary of their research project.	Offers a clear and concise summary of their research project.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) explain the principal argument(s), methods, and contribution(s) of their research project?</i>	- Does not refer to their arguments/conclusions and methods. - Neglects to mention the importance of their research project.	- Hints at their arguments/conclusions and methods. - Offers some insight into the importance of their research project.	- Highlights and explains their arguments/conclusions and methods. - Describes the importance of their research project.	

Research Reflection Question #2: How did you design your research question?				
Criteria	Developing (0-1 points)	Competent (2-3 points)	Exemplary (4-5 points)	Points
<i>Did the applicant(s) sufficiently describe the origins of their research project and the problem they are addressing (lived experiences, fascination, curiosity, interest, passion)?</i>	- Avoids altogether or vaguely discusses the origins of their research. - Does not reference the problem they are addressing.	- References the origins of their research but provides limited details. - Does not fully elaborate upon the problem they are addressing.	- Explains the origins of their research with specific examples. - Outlines the problem they are addressing with clarity.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) describe the initial research they performed to develop their research question (book reviews, AI tools, websites, reference materials, etc.)?</i>	Ignores or vaguely covers the early stages of their research.	Provides an intelligible summary of their background research.	Explains their methods of background research and offers specific examples.	



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Research Reflection Question #3: How did you perform your research?				
Criteria	Developing (0-1 points)	Competent (2-3 points)	Exemplary (4-5 points)	Points
<i>Did the applicant(s) describe how their search strategy fits within their discipline?</i>	Does not make any links between their search process and discipline.	Displays basic awareness of the relationship between their search process and discipline.	Makes clear connections between their search process and discipline.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) make use of the Western Libraries website (LibGuides, library catalogue, finding aids, databases, etc.)?</i>	Neglects to highlight the resources they used on our website.	Identifies the resources they used on our website but does not fully explain how they were useful.	Notes the specific resources they used on our website and how they were useful.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) describe their search terms and show an awareness of controlled vocabulary?</i>	- Omits to explain their search process. - Ignores basic search features in catalogue and databases. - Shows no awareness of LCSHs and/or controlled vocabulary of databases.	- Refers to but only partially reconstructs their search process. - Shows awareness of basic search features in catalogue and databases. - Demonstrates basic understanding of the LCSHs and/or controlled vocabulary of databases.	- Reconstructs their search process in detail. - Shows awareness of advanced search features in catalogue and databases. - Describes the LCSHs and/or controlled vocabulary of databases and how they influenced their search.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) make use of human resources (research consultation, reference help, etc.)?</i>	Does not refer to any communication with library staff.	Alludes to but does not fully describe their interactions with library staff.	References specific conversations with library staff and how this influenced their research.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) make use of our collections?</i>	Makes limited or no use of our collections.	Uses a significant number of materials from our collections.	Draws extensively upon our collections.	



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Research Project Rubric (25 points)

Criteria	Developing (0-1 points)	Competent (2-3 points)	Exemplary (4-5 points)	Points
<i>Did the applicant(s) produce a research project with a clear argument/conclusion?</i>	Fails to offer an identifiable argument/conclusion.	Offers an argument/ conclusion that is not entirely developed.	Presents a clear argument/ conclusion that is well developed.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) organize their project so that it is easy to follow and intelligible for a general audience (well-written, well-spoken, well-produced, well-filmed)?</i>	Offers a disorganized project that lacks clarity, making it difficult to follow.	Provides a well-organized project that is only occasionally inaccessible to a broader audience.	Organizes their project in such a way that it flows smoothly and is accessible to a general audience.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) properly quote, paraphrase, and provide credit to their sources in their research project?</i>	Cites with multiple errors and often misrepresents their sources.	Makes occasional citation errors and largely avoids misusing their sources.	Provides proper citations and engages faithfully with their sources.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) critically engage with the sources they cite/use in their research project?</i>	- Accepts their sources at face value without questioning them. - Avoids turning to sources offering different perspectives.	- Uses several sources but does not always critically engage with them. - Uses sources that offer some diverging perspectives.	- Questions their sources and properly integrates them into their project. - References sources of varying perspectives.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) choose sources that were appropriate for their research project (primary vs. secondary, scholarly vs. popular, traditional knowledge, etc.)?</i>	Turns to sources that are related to their topic but that do not allow them to answer their research question.	Uses several sources to answer their research question but not all of them are entirely relevant.	Engages with a range of relevant sources to answer their research question.	



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Bibliography Rubric (15 points)

Criteria	Developing (0-1 points)	Competent (2-3 points)	Exemplary (4-5 points)	Points
<i>Did the applicant(s) compile an extensive bibliography, reference list, or list of works cited?</i>	Fails to meet the required number of sources for their assignment.	Incorporates the required number of sources for their assignment.	Draws upon more than the required number of sources for their assignment.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) use current and relevant scholarship and/or traditional knowledge related to their area of research?</i>	- Does not use a variety of sources (and formats) in their research project. - Draws upon sources that are outdated and not appropriate for their research project.	- Uses some variety of sources (and formats) in their research project. - Uses sources that are largely current and relevant to their research project.	- Uses a wide range of sources (and formats) in their research project. - Cites sources that are current and relevant to their research project.	
<i>Did the applicant(s) craft their citations accurately according to the citation style selected (citations and references)?</i>	- Uses wrong citation style for discipline/assignment. - Cites sources with numerous errors and omissions.	- Uses proper citation style for discipline/assignment. - Cites sources with some formatting errors.	- Uses proper citation style for discipline/assignment. - Cites sources accurately.	