***Explorations* Rubric Explanation**  
*Structure and Format*

* **Logic:** The author provides sufficient evidence to claims and connects claims to conclusive statements.
* **Flow:** The writing is easy to follow and establishes connections between sections within the manuscript.
* **Writing Quality:** The writing is focused on the stated research question. The author uses precise language and a professional tone.

*Critical Thinking*

* **Research Originality:** The author describes research in which they are involved.
* **Research Validity:** The author describes research that is reliable and verifiable.
* **Research Relevancy:** The author describes research that is currently relevant to the field of study. The research is unique and adds to the discourse present within the discipline.

*Fit for Journal*

* **Accessibility/Approachability of Topic:** The topic has broad implications beyond its immediate subdiscipline. The writing uses minimal disciplinary jargon and attempts to relate to a general audience.
* **Project Timeline:** The manuscript appears to be complete and contains more than a project proposal, is appropriate for a full publication.
* **Disciplinary/Topic Representation:** Similar to Research Relevancy, the topic is not overused in or unhelpful to the field of study and is not overrepresented in past issues of *Explorations*.