




FACULTY OF
NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Scholarly Paper Assignment: Exploratory Paper

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- wac
- c4w
- writing initiatives
- webmail
- efs

I'm new to the University of Alberta, having come from the University of Western Ontario where I was Director of the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. In my new position here I'll be working with faculty and students across the university as part of the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies.

I am the author, co-author, or editor of five books and 29 articles, including *Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities*. My current research interests include the development of doctoral student writing, writing assignments across disciplinary fields, and rhetorical approaches to text encoding. Currently I serve as co-Vice-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) and a member of the Executive Board of the Canadian

Recent presentations
This page contains links to pdfs of slides displayed at presentations I've given.

Books
This page displays the covers and descriptions of books I've authored, co-authored, or co-edited



Blog: Thinking About Writing
A new blog on writing-related issues

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves1/index.html>

Writing Across the Curriculum

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Today:
9/2/2009 10:31:23 AM

C4W
WRS Courses
Roger Graves
Blog
Academic Honesty

Would you like to improve the writing of your students? Improve their learning of your lecture material? Are you looking for new ways to engage your students in your course materials? If this interests you, contact [Roger Graves](#): or 492.2169

What can we do for individual instructors:

- meet to talk about ways to incorporate informal (short, impromptu) writing assignments into any class, small or large
- review via email any assignment you give students that has a writing component to help make it clearer for students and to help develop grading rubrics to improve the speed and accuracy of grading
- visit your class to help students get started on your writing assignments

What can we do for departments:

- hold workshops on creating good writing assignments
- host discussions of how to improve the writing of students in your programs
- conduct reviews of writing assignments in your departments courses to identify exactly what your students are being asked to write—and to ensure that they have access to resources on how to write (online and on-campus)

Upcoming Presentations and Workshops:

<http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/WAC/>

The writing process

Getting started

- Explore the assignment
- Make rough notes
- Pick a tentative topic



Getting feedback

- Make an appointment at a writing centre
- Get feedback on your draft/revise

Revising

- Work on style and lower order concerns
- Proofread, consult checklist for assignment



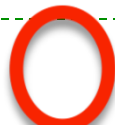
January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Explore assignment

Research, drafting, feedback

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Due date



Organizing an Exploratory Paper

- ▶ **Cover page:** APA 6th
- ▶ **Abstract**
- ▶ **Introduction**
- ▶ **Body:**
- ▶ **Conclusion:** Summary of key points in body; connect to thesis, relate to the scenario



Genre: Exploratory paper

- ▶ Not persuasive (not arguing a position)
- ▶ Find out about an issue/problem
- ▶ Form preliminary conclusions about what resources might be available to address the issue/problem
- ▶ Conduct an inquiry into a topic
- ▶ Gather information and share it
- ▶ Look for causes and factors contributing to the problem, the people/institutions, and possible solutions



Your assignment: Pick one

Scenario # 1:

“...A Hearing Tribunal made a finding of unprofessional conduct against member XXXX who posted on **Facebook information** about a critical incident at her place of work in sufficient detail that those involved in the incident or with the patient **may be able to identify the patient...**” (*Alberta RN*, March/April, 2011).

Scenario #2:

“...A Hearing Tribunal made a finding of unprofessional conduct against member XXXX, who administered dilaudid [a drug] rather than morphine [a drug] to a patient **twice in error; failed to do an adequate assessment** of the patient when the error was discovered; **failed to document** adequately on the error; and **documented an incorrect date** for the phone order following the medication error...” (*Alberta RN*, July/August, 2011).

What are the key issues here you could explore?



Key issues

Facebook post

▶ Documenting errors



Exploratory paper questions

Topic	Patient privacy
Researchable question	Why does this scenario tell us about the Code of Ethics (CAN) and CARNA's stance toward the privacy of patient information?
Why important?	New communication technologies such as social networks like Facebook seem to encourage people to make public information that they would not make public in more familiar technologies such as a newspaper.



Introductions for exploratory papers

Reader questions:

Writer responses

What is this?

Set the context; general info
Explain the situation

Why am I reading it?

State why this is an important issue

What do you want me to do?

State your research question
Explain why you are interested in this issue

Nursing values and ethical responsibilities

▶ Facebook

▶ Documentation



Professionalism / CARNA Standards of Practice

▶ Facebook

▶ Documentation



Professionalism for student nurses



What would you do if you encounter unprofessional behaviour?



Apply professionalism knowledge to your
future nursing practice



Drafting/Revising

- ▶ Get a “trusted reader” to get feedback
- ▶ Consider using other students in the course or the writing centre for this
- ▶ Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea



Don't hand in a first draft

Towards the due date, switch your focus from

higher-order concerns (arrangement, arguments, evidence) to

lower-order concerns: proofreading, grammar, citation format, grammar/spelling

