




FACULTY OF  
**NURSING**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# Scholarly Paper Assignment: Exploratory Paper

**Dr. Roger Graves**

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, University of Alberta

# Roger Graves



## Roger Graves

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum  
Professor, EFS

February 13, 2009


- 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

---

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Writing Initiatives  
University of Alberta

Writing Across the Curriculum

Home Presentations Other Programs Resources by Subject Contact Us

Home > Home

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

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	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Explore assignment

Research, drafting, feedback

Due date

Due Monday March 4



# Organizing an Exploratory Paper

---

- ▶ **Cover page:** APA 6<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ **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 Topic

---

- ▶ Find an example of someone you consider to be an influential **Registered Nurse**.
- ▶ Focus on an aspect of this nurse's practice that you would like to learn more about (e.g. area of practice, scope of practice, nursing values, or other).
- ▶ Find scholarly and professional literature that explores this particular aspect of nursing practice within the Canadian context.





# Assignment (continued)

---

- ▶ Reflect on the qualities and/or traits of this nurse, and respond to the following questions in the form of a scholarly essay\*:
  - ▶ What have you learned about nursing from this nurse?
  - ▶ What questions does this raise for you about nursing?
  - ▶ How has knowing about this nurse's experience changed your understanding of nursing?

*\* A scholarly essay is an essay that explores ideas drawing on credible sources to support and extend your own ideas.*

---



---

## Influential RNs:

- ▶ Dr. Helen K. Mussallem (1915-2012)
- ▶ [List of fictional nurses](#)
- ▶ [Dr. Anita Molzahn](#)
- ▶ Nurse to Know:



NURSE TO KNOW

## Nursing practice

- ▶ area of practice
- ▶ scope of practice
- ▶ nursing values
- ▶ other



# Exploratory paper questions

---

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Nursing values</b>
Researchable question	How can art help me with my patients and my career as a nurse?
Why important?	Exposure to art provides benefits to both the patients and the nurse who makes it available to them.



# Research

---

What have you learned about nursing from this nurse?

- ▶ Art has therapeutic powers for McLeod
- ▶ Research supports this
- ▶ The 2005 National Survey of the Work and Health of Nurses pointed to problems with nurses health because of stressful work environments
- ▶ Started website called [Art by Nurses](#):
- ▶ “Art is an important outlet utilized by many nurses. We believe that nurses engage in the meditative process of art in order to make meaning of the experiences they encounter as healers. These nurses transcend the stress and sorrow that is sometimes associated with the profession and travel to another plane where they creatively channel their energies.”



# Research

---

What questions does this raise for you about nursing?

- ▶ How stressful is it?
- ▶ Does this mean I should take electives in fine arts?



# Research

---

How has knowing about this nurse's experience changed your understanding of nursing?

- ▶ It is a hard job—or can be
- ▶ I'll need to think hard about work/life balance strategies
- ▶ As I go through my life and career, my work as a nurse is likely to change and develop from one aspect of nursing to many others



# 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

# Thesis

---





# 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

