**Evaluation Rubric**

Judges will utilize the following rubric to evaluate submissions.

# REFLECTIVE ESSAY TO PRIZE COMMITTEE (25 POINTS)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Accomplished** (18-25) | **Proficient / Competent** (9-17) | **Developing** (0-8) |
| Search strategies are appropriate and well described, for example:   * Identifying types of information needed * Use of various research tools & sources used appropriate to the inquiry * Persistence & initiative in gaining access to sources * Use of flexible & creative search terms & strategies * Adjustments to search strategies in response to success/failure * Articulation & utilization of specific investigative techniques unique to the discipline | Search strategies are described generally, for example:   * Identifying standard finding aids & services, but omitting other appropriate resources * Describing minimal or misguided efforts to optimize search terms * Failing to address challenges, information gaps or responses to failed searches * Revealing an over-reliance of materials available on campus * Not utilizing investigative methods appropriate to the discipline | Search strategies omitted or very general, for example:   * Not including evidence of appropriate resources or search strategies * Not identifying appropriate finding aids or tools for the   given context   * Not including clear methodology for gathering   discipline-specific information |
| Displays clear criteria for evaluation of sources selected, including all of the following:   * Relevance * Authority/credibility * Scope/coverage * Accuracy * Currency * Particular viewpoints | Criteria for evaluation of selected sources incomplete or unclear | Does not identify criteria for evaluation of selected sources |
| Demonstrates a good awareness of diverse viewpoints/influences | Demonstrates a limited awareness of other viewpoints/influences | Does not demonstrate an awareness of other viewpoints/influences |
| Distinguishes own original contribution from that of others | Identifies own ideas, but doesn’t distinguish them from those of others | Does not evaluate own ideas or those encountered in the scholarship |

# RESEARCH PAPER OR CREATIVE PROJECT (10 POINTS)

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| **Accomplished (8-10)** | **Proficient / Competent (4-7)** | **Developing (0-3)** |
| Well-written or well presented, clearly identifying convergence of evidence and argument | Writing or presentation occasionally lacks clarity or  emphasis | Poorly written or presented |
| Sources used appropriately in support of argument/thesis | Some claims or assertions lack references | Unsupported claims or assertions |
| Numerical data or primary sources contextualized and used appropriately | Quotes or data occasionally inappropriately used or poorly integrated into argument | Quotes or data not used appropriately, e.g. primary data obtained from secondary sources |
| Quotes and acquired ideas well selected and integrated into applicant’s argument | Quotes or acquired ideas generally used appropriately, but could be better selected or synthesized for conciseness/originality. | Poor selection of quotes (e.g. from sources that do not support applicant’s argument or address point) or heavy reliance on quotes instead of synthesizing material |

# BIBLIOGRAPHY (10 POINTS)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Accomplished** (8-10) | **Proficient / Competent** (4-7) | **Developing** (0-3) |
| Appropriately uses sources that display a rich diversity of content, provenance and/or format | Uses a range of sources appropriate to the topic | Relies on too few sources |
| Sources display the ability to dig beneath the surface of information in the search for relevant material | Sources meet assignment requirements, but may lack breadth, rigor or relevance | Unclear why some sources were selected |
| Citations are accurate, complete and standardized (a few formatting errors can be forgiven) | Some citations are incomplete or unstandardized | Many citations are incomplete (lacking sufficient information to locate the source cited) or unstandardized (lacking a consistent style) |

# SUPPORTING LETTER (5 POINTS)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Accomplished** (4-5) | **Proficient / Competent** (2-3) | **Developing** (0-1) |
| Explains how project addresses significant questions within the discipline & clearly articulates the stakes | Indicates that argument has some originality, but generally takes a familiar path, OR that the argument is original but stakes are low | Points to little or no originality in topic / approach or indicates that the question is no or low stakes |
| Discusses and affirms the appropriateness of argumentation, methods, and sources selected | Provides limited information about the appropriateness of argumentation, methods, and sources used | Does not discuss, or expresses doubt about, the appropriateness of argumentation, methods, and sources used |

