Research Log and Annotated Bibliography Requirements
(Adapted from Danielle Cordaro's "Teaching the Proposal.")

The Research Log
An exploratory essay is a paper that incorporates your process of generating and exploring ideas with the idea or topic itself. The easiest way to track your exploration of the subject matter is to keep a research log. Take notes as you on your research and how that research has changed your thoughts and opinions on the topic you've chosen. Research includes library sources, interviews with classmates or experts, and *reliable* information from the Internet or an online database. The notes you take for your log will also form the basis of the Annotated Bibliography.

The research log I will check must be typed. There is no page length requirement, but your log should be chronological and clear. A simple way to go about producing a research log is to record the dates you used the source, the citation information, and the information you found important. Here's an example of how your log might read:

1/8/04
    Went to the library and found an article on (subject). I agreed with (aspect of the source), but disagreed with (aspect of the source). I want to find out more about (subject). Some good information I found on (subject) was _____. Citation information: Said, Edward. <u>Culture and Imperialism</u>. New York: Knopf, 1993. Time: 1 hour.
1/9/04
    Had a conversation with Joe Schmoe, and he totally disagreed with my stance on (subject). He thinks (opinion), which led me to start thinking about (new idea). He said that _____. Citation information. Time: 20 minutes.
1/9/04
    Went to <u>www.(subject).com</u>. I'm not sure that the owners of the website are unbiased, but their opinion is interesting because it is the opposite of (source). It's making me rethink my stance on the whole issue. They believe that _____. Citation information. Time: 10 minutes.

As you can see, keeping a journal like this could be short or very extensive. Keep in mind that the more information and insights you put in your research log, the more you will have to work with when writing the essay and producing your Annotated Bibliography.

For Project 4: The Problem-Solution Report, you will continue the log you start for Project 2.

The Annotated Bibliography
For the Exploratory Essay, you will write an Annotated Bibliography in place of a works cited or reference page. An annotated bibliography functions similarly to a works cited page in that:

- It appears at the end of your essay on a separate page
- It lists all the sources that appear in your paper in alphabetical order
- It provides a reference for readers to follow up on your research.

It is different from a bibliography or works cited page in that it provides a brief summary of each source and explains how it might be useful (or *not* useful) to you in your project of exploring a local problem. These descriptions should be very short; 50-100 word blurbs are sufficient.

Writing an annotated bibliography should be easy since you will be writing about your sources in your research log. Taking good, detailed notes during your research will make writing your annotated bibliography much easier.

A good example of an annotated bibliographies appear on the Purdue OWL:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/