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Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Exploration Essay

As students, experience in research, scholarly, and creative activity is almost inevitable. Especially when you consider the broad definition of research that fits with the Honors research, scholarly, and creative activity competency. In addition to the research as students, there are other opportunities to learn through research that come up in present experiences. Lastly, in my future career research will be especially important, and I look forward to experiences that will shape my skills.

I think of research as an act. This act to me is seeking out information to learn and apply into a broad concept or a specific project. Research can develop skills that include critical thinking, attention to detail, and self-assessment. Similarly, when you go to *apply* the research, you develop skills of problem solving and learn how to better showcase and share results. Skills like I mentioned are important to develop a well-rounded student and employee; a sense of independence. For example, when researching you can use skills and solve a problem. When you solve the problem, you are empowered and may feel more confident to take on challenges. It is compound effect that builds when done correctly.

In the past, as expected, I have done most of my research as a student. Various research projects on a wide range of subjects. In these scenarios, the research topics were often new and/or personal to me which required a level of independence. I have learned effective ways to collect data and apply specific

skills such as attention to detail and self-assessment. In my personal life I come across research, usually on a much smaller scale. Although in this case I may not necessarily be compiling sources to create a paper or project, I am still trying to solve a problem. Some daily questions that I come across may seem frivolous, but still fit the definition of research. For example, questions like 'what is the weather' or 'how do I cook this food' require seeking out information and research to solve.

Moving into my higher education and my future career, I would like to sophisticate my research and application. The honors program and this competency helps develop deeper ideas of research. It starts with collecting information. Attention to detail and critical thinking is important in this step. When applying what I learn, I look forward to diving into more specific topics. Focusing on specific topics could lead to more applicable solutions, a goal of research. Lastly, it is important to develop an effective way to share information. Effectively sharing ensures that the research was done for a reason, it provides an opportunity for concrete, measurable effects.

My future career in special education often deals with evidence-based teaching methods, as well as statistics that support these methods. Research would ensure I am implementing the correct curriculum and am able to measure student results. Additionally, skills in research allow me to evolve within my career and remain informed on new resources and other information.

Without research, scholarly, and creative activity you are at risk of being stagnant in your life, academics, and/or career. Research gives us tangible skills, has multiply opportunities for application, and allows us to grow in the future.