

Sample E

[1] The unknown is often a frightening and troublesome place to explore. The very nature of it is foreign to the individual exploring it and by very definition, pushes the explorer from their comfort zone. However, while this feeling is odd and often uncomfortable and occasionally distressing, it allows the person to expand their knowledge and abilities, while often producing some of the most memorable experiences of a person's lifetime. The exploration of the unknown is critical to the development of a person and allows them to break out of perceived limitations. The value of exploring the unknown is rooted in its ability to expand a person's view of the world and themselves while simultaneously crafting memorable experiences and breaking previously perceived personal barriers.

Commented [BK1]: Student's introduction

Commented [BK2]: Transition to qualify the thesis

Commented [BK3]: Main thesis

[2] One of the most obvious effects of venturing into the unknown, whether it be physical, social, mental, or emotional, is that that person's view of the world and themselves is permanently changed. When someone experiences something new and revealing, once cannot simply forget it; they are forever changed, and their world view expanded. My personal experience serves as a prime example. During my Junior year I went on a school retreat called Encounter where I was put in a small group with other people to simply talk about yourself, the troubles you faced, and the interactions you have with other people and how these interactions affect you. For me it was a very uncomfortable and foreign experience because I am not often one to talk about my emotions, especially to other people who I would have to see in school every day. However by the last night of the retreat I had learned more about myself than I had ever learned in my previous 17 years of life. I told my group something about myself that I had barely been able to accept myself. Through that journey into the unknown on that retreat I was forever changed. I could not see myself the same way I had just a few days earlier.

Commented [BK4]: Claim

Commented [BK5]: Commentary

Commented [BK6]: Evidence, as well as commentary

Furthermore hearing the stories of my fellow Encounterites greatly expanded my view of others and it made me realize the struggles we all face as human beings. Thus, through exploration of the unknown parts of myself and others I experienced on my retreat, people can learn a lot and grow tremendously as a person by expanding their world view.

Commented [BK7]: Uses the effect of their personal experience as evidence

[3] Furthermore, exploring the unknown creates often fond memories as well as breaking perceived boundaries people place on themselves. By exploring the unknown we create some of the best experiences out of some of the most uncomfortable circumstances. A personal example is my experience joining Model UN. I did not know many people in the club and was anxious about the trip to Boston, as I had never been on such a long trip so far away from home without family. I found however that some of the best memories of my life were made on that trip as I became friends with my fellow delegates and my classmates as we ventured around Boston. Those memories would not exist if I did not venture into the unknown and put myself out there. Furthermore, people often learn that they can do a lot more than they thought if they push into the unknown and try things that they thought were accomplishable. One such example is a friend of mine who was hesitant to take AP classes this

Commented [BK8]: Transition could be stronger

Commented [BK9]: Commentary

Commented [BK10]: Commentary

Commented [BK11]: Lack of structure, as this transition is used repeatedly

year because she thought she just could not do them, however, after I convinced her to take them, she did amazingly well in the class. This shows that if she had never journeyed into the unknown and taken these classes she would have never known what she was capable of. Therefore exploring the unknown is ecencial in expanding your boundries and in creating lasting memories.

[4] Overall, it is evident that the value of exploring the unknown lies in the tremendous personal growth a person experiences through expanded perspectives, new memories, and new expanded boundaries. Thus showing that exploring the unknown is crucial in personal development.

Commented [BK12]: Evidence used from personal experience

Commented [BK13]: Commentary

Commented [BK14]: Claim

Commented [BK15]: Response has confidence, however does not have connections with the rest of the response. Conclusion

Score: 3

Thesis – 1

Evidence/Commentary – 2

Sophistication Point – 0

This essay has a defensible thesis and makes it clear as to the student's position towards the unknown can in turn help you to overcome whatever barriers are in the way. However, it lacks development throughout the response. The writer does a fine job of using their own past experiences as evidence, giving a firsthand look as to what they went through. As well, they also are successful in presenting their case to different audiences as their past experiences relate in different areas. On the other hand though, those statements are geared more towards what had occurred, and not directly towards supporting the thesis. The student made three claims in their response, yet did not include a counterclaim. The inclusion of this would potentially help to refute any opposition, further strengthening their argument in the long run. There stood out numerous fractures, such as the repeated use of transitions like “*furthermore*” and “*overall*,” which disrupted the connection between the paragraphs. This results in an obstruction of the fidelity in these paragraphs, which leads to a weak conclusion that lacks development and explanation.