

REFLECTIVE ESSAY FOR CULMINATING PROJECT

A written reflective essay is an extremely important part of the culminating project. This writing piece is similar to the formal project proposal that you completed at the beginning of your project. There are no “wrong” answers when reflecting on your experience. This is the opportunity for you to write about where you started, what you thought was going to happen, and finally, what actually occurred.

You will also be referring to your reflection during your oral presentation. There is a specific scored section on the presentation rubric concerning reflection.

The essay must be at least 500 words (two pages), typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and in Times New Roman or Arial font, size 12. This essay should be a narrative written in the first person. The reflective paper should show what the student learned about herself/himself as she/he worked through the project.

This essay should include personal and educational experiences, that led to the student’s interest in the topic which was chosen for the project. For example:

- If the project included volunteer experience at a law firm, the paper should include how interest in law developed.
- If the project was rebuilding an automobile engine, the paper should discuss how interest developed in car engines, perhaps by watching a parent work on cars.
- If the project included volunteer experience at a food bank, the paper should describe how the student became concerned about hunger and needs of the less fortunate.

The following questions will guide the writing but are not restrictive:

- Why was this topic chosen? What experiences (classes, people, books, etc.) directed the choice of topic?
- What did the student learn about herself/himself through this experience, i.e., time management skills? Was the learning something unexpected, interactions with your consultant.
- How will the experience apply to the student’s plans for the future?
- What research was completed that helped the student accomplish his/her project?
- Was the student satisfied with his/her topic choice? Why or why not?
- What obstacles were encountered and how did the student deal with those challenges?

REFLECTIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

"Reflect on yourself as a learner."

All areas must meet or exceed standard to be acceptable.

	Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection reveals exceptional insight and introspection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the Culminating Project summarizing what was created or accomplished • Describes new skills learned or advanced • Describes challenges and obstacles • Explains personal growth • Describes modifications that the student would have done differently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks reflection about one or more of the components
Length & Format		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 500 words • One-inch margins • Double spaced • Font: Times New Roman or Arial • Size: 12 font 	
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure is obvious, logical and complete. • Structure fits topic and content. • Components are seamlessly woven through piece while easily identifiable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization shows planning with a clear beginning, middle and end • Logical or chronological order is functional. • All components are easily identifiable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational scheme not apparent • Detracts from readability • Some components missing or difficult to find
Word Choice & Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words convey exceptional sense of personality. • Creative use of analogies, metaphors, humor, etc., to describe personal learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written in standard English, less formal and more personal than the scholarly paper • Few redundancies in word selection • Voice is appropriate and functional for audience and purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses slang, inappropriate language • Redundant use of limited vocabulary • Voice inappropriate for audience and purpose

Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently strong and varied sentence structure • Effective transitions make reader eager to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of sentence structure • Functional transitions move the reader along 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive simple sentences • Many sentence fragments • Many sentence fragments • Few or awkward transitions
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many errors in punctuation, spelling, etc. • Seriously affects readability

- Congratulations! Your Reflective Essay meets the standard.

Teacher/Advisor Signature & Date	
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- Please resubmit your Reflective Essay, along with your original essay, by _____ (Date).

Teacher/Advisor Signature & Date	
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