

English 102: Spring 2009
Sections 128 and 147
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The Reflection

Purpose:

The purpose of a reflective essay is to provide you an opportunity to assess what you have learned about research, your writing process, argumentation and audience

Some questions to consider:

- What is your writing process? (e.g. how do you begin, when do you use others for help, what is your drafting process, how do you revise)
- Where does research figure into this process?
- How does having a specific audience in mind change your writing?
- What have you improved in this process? What still requires improvement?
- How do others aid you in your process of research and argumentation?
- What do you do to “own” the writing (e.g. how do you incorporate your style into an academic piece, what do you do to avoid repeating others’ arguments, etc.)
- How would you describe your writing style and what would you do to improve your style?
- What overall growth have you seen in your writing?

Some suggestions:

- Work to make this a good piece of writing, following the conventions of good argumentation. Yes, you can have a thesis in a reflective essay, and yes, you can follow PIE in the body.
- This piece of writing should be focused enough to get on to the third page. Yes, you can be slightly shorter or longer, but 2 pages are too short and 4 pages are too long. Be precise in your diction and argumentation.
- You may be wondering what it is you are arguing in a reflective essay. Essentially you are taking a position about your writing process as it relates to research and argumentation, and then you will clearly illustrate that position.
- Use the reflection as an opportunity to really lock down your writing process—acknowledge what you are doing when you brainstorm, draft, revise and revise and revise.
- Own it—use clear language by choosing active verbs (for the most part), incorporate a variety of sentence structures and patterns, and avoid most pronouns as subjects of sentences (except for “I,” of course, but then, you still do not want to start every sentence with “I”).

Minimum requirements

- 2-3 (600-900 words) pages: double-spaced, typed, standard margins, etc.
- Thesis in the introduction, with support and development in the body paragraphs
- Some indication of “owning” your writing
- **Due date:** May 8, D2L before noon. NO CLASS THIS DAY.