

Assignment #4 Reflective Essay

The purpose of this reflective essay is:

- for students to develop a system of self evaluation that will assist them in their skills to write better papers in the future
- to examine their progress during the first semester at Rockford University.

When writing this essay you will be answering questions like:

- Where were you as a writer in the beginning of this semester?
- Where are you now? What have you learned that has helped?
- How has the multi-step process helped develop your own academic writing process?
- What do you need to continue improving your academic writing?

Step 1) For this assignment you will choose one of the first two papers that you wrote in this class and analyze it according to the **rhetorical situation** strategies that we have been studying throughout the semester:

- Genre
- purpose
- audience*
- stance

***Consider whether** the audience might be wider than just your instructor. Do you feel that your paper has something meaningful to offer to others? Would you consider publishing it in an undergraduate research publication?

Step 2) Write about your own use of the five step writing process that we learned. What parts of the process seemed natural and easy? What parts of the process felt awkward or did not help you in putting your essay together?

1. Brain storming
2. Outlining
3. Rough draft
4. Peer edit
5. Revise for final draft

Step 3) Organization:

- **Introduction** – tell the reader something about your general writing experience in your first semester.
 - Discuss some general reflections on the five step writing process.
 - **Introduce the paper** you are evaluating. What is the title? What kind of essay is it? What is the subject?

- Discuss all three essays in a general way – what you learned from them. What were your difficulties with each one.
- Write a thesis statement that explains to your reader what you thought about the papers that you wrote in general and why you chose the one you did to write about in detail.

• **body paragraphs:**

1. Discuss each paper that you wrote in a general way:

- a. Literacy narrative
- b. Analyze and compare
- c. Cause and effect

2. Focus on your paper of choice, either literacy narrative or analyze and compare:

- a. Explain how this paper fulfills the **rhetorical situations strategies** we learned
- b. Discuss the progress of this paper from brainstorming, to outline to rough draft, peer edit, and final draft. Explain how the peer edit comments helped or not. Write about your reaction to your instructor's comments on your rough draft and how they affected your writing of your final draft.

• **Conclusion:**

- Restatement of thesis and summary - Did learning this system provide you with a process that gives you confidence in approaching a college writing project?
- After looking over your papers and choosing this one to represent your body of work, **what do you feel are your strengths and weaknesses** and what do you hope to improve on in Rhet 102?

Requirements:

Length: 3 pages **plus** 1 cover (total of 4 pages); 12 pt. font, no more than one inch margins – double-spaced.

Writing: you will be graded on spelling, punctuation, grammar and proofreading

Timeline

Wednesday, July 25

Canvas Elect submission and xsRough draft due;
Peer edit workshop

Friday, July 27:

Rough draft will be returned

Friday, August 3:

Final draft due – Folder and hard copy to be turned in

Final Draft should be handed in inside your folder and should include:

1. Final draft of paper you are evaluating
2. Outline of reflective essay
3. Peer edit form
4. Final draft