

Dr. Overman

Reflective Essay

Now that you've completed your progressions, *reflect* on the work you have done to complete your *writing portfolio* for final assessment. In the reflective essay you should address your work in light of these questions:

- o **What does your portfolio tell you about what you have learned in this term?**
- o **How might you apply what you have learned to your work in other courses?**
- o **What do you need to work on next in your writing?**

The most important aspect of a reflective essay is that you must *be honest!* Your goal here is to record the progress you have made, but you must also engage in a frank assessment of what you need to do next in order to continue developing as a writer.

Task: Write a carefully structured reflection on your progress as writer and thinker through your work in this class. Introduce your portfolio and consider addressing some or all of the following issues in your preface (these are suggestions, not requirements):

- explain the significance of the issues addressed in your work
- discuss your development as a writer over the course of the semester
- explain what revisions you made to your papers and why
- discuss what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of your writing, as reflected in your portfolio.

Audience: Assume that your readers are members of one or more of the following groups who might read your portfolio:

- other members of this class
- CSUN professors and administrators
- potential employers, readers interested in the issues you are addressing
- your colleagues/friends/family, and anyone else who might be interested in reading your portfolio.

Goals:

- o your preface should read as a cohesive whole, not as a collection of unrelated points
- o about your portfolio—this is a paper, after all, and the conventions for writing papers still hold
- o the preface is your opportunity to reflect on and discuss your work; *it should not read as an evaluation of the course or of me.*
- o support your points with specific references to or examples from the work in your portfolio.

Requirements: This essay should be two to three double-spaced pages. When citing your own work, use *MLA parenthetical documentation*. NOTE: Other reflective pieces are also possible, such as poems, plays, or videos.

Due: review weekly schedule