

Paper #5: Reflection

One of the most important goals of this class is transfer: You are not taking this class (just) to practice the specific forms of essay you've crafted, but to become a better writer (or communicator, or rhetor, et cetera). As such, you will craft an essay looking back at your semester, in terms of thought, writing process, and product. Consider what skills you have gained or improved. Are there good or bad habits you have acquired or lost? How will you carry this development forward in your career?

Write a letter to me, your instructor, explaining the writing development that occurred during this class and how it will inform your future. Talk about how the skills you learned here—research, argument, discourse community identification, and audience adaptation—will make you a better citizen and/or employee and/or whatever.

Additionally, I am interested in how your thoughts on the course topics changed, if indeed they did. Look back at your first essay and see where you started the semester, then let me know if the research you did or the things we looked at in class changed your mind, and why (or why not) you think that is the case.

Papers must be at least 1,000 words, in letter format. All papers must be accompanied by a reflective memo of at least 500 words.

Reflective Memo

Along with the final draft of your essay, I will also ask you to craft a reflective writer's memo. In your memo, you will tell a story about your process of writing the essay. Some find it difficult to reflect on a reflection, but an essay about your other essays still involves your writing process. Some questions you might explore include:

- What strategies did you use to get ideas for writing this essay? Which were most effective? Why?
- What strategies did you use to revise this essay? Which were most effective? Why?
- How did the experience of writing under the constraint of letter formatting hinder and/or enhance your creativity?
- What do you think is your most beautiful sentence in this essay? Why?
- What did you learn from the process of composing this essay?