

Portfolio Reflection Essay

“I stopped worrying about how awkward the reflection was, stopped worrying about how to please the teacher, and started actually reflecting and thinking. ... Teachers don’t want you to say certain things, we want you to think in certain ways” (Giles 193, 202).

Purpose:

Your portfolio reflection essay is an opportunity for you to introduce your portfolio to me and explain how your understanding of your own literacy has developed and changed over the course of this quarter. Think back to Giles on “Reflective Writing” as you consider how your reflection essay will help me grade your portfolio. Keep in mind that your reflection essay provides me with the main evidence of your **metacognition** and **processes**, and I will be grading your revised literacy narrative and discourse community project by considering your writing process, why you made the choices you did, and your self-awareness of those choices—not by judging it as objectively “good” writing.

Your reflection essay is my guide to reading your portfolio as evidence of your learning. Thus, you will need to:

- Reflect on how you have or have not met each of the UWP 1 learning outcomes
- Support your reflection with specific examples of *the most recent round of revisions* you have made to the projects in your portfolio, with the reasoning behind the revisions (this demonstrates **rhetorical awareness** and **knowledge of conventions**)
- Describe what further revisions you would make if you had more time to work on your portfolio
- Consider how what you learned about reading and composing in UWP 1 could apply to your future writing contexts

Genre:

The reflection essay is related to the cover memo genre, because it introduces the portfolio and reflects on the revisions you have made to your projects. You should write it in the form of a letter to me. However, the reflection essay goes far beyond the genre of the cover memo, because it accounts for the composing and learning that you have been doing throughout the entire course. There is no one right way to write the reflection essay. I am looking for *honesty, deep self-reflection, and specific examples*.

Important Dates:

T 3/12 @ 1 p.m.: Upload a draft (min. 1,000 words) and cover memo to Canvas. PRINT 2 hard copies of the cover memo AND reflection essay draft to bring to class.

M 3/19 by 11:59 p.m.: Include your revised portfolio reflection essay (min. 1,200 words) at the top of your electronic portfolio.