

## ESSAY 3 ENGLISH 1101

### Reflection Writing: Responding to Now

Length: 1.5-2 pages minimum

**PURPOSE:** Our final paper was originally meant to be a synthesis paper, but we've fought through many obstacles to get as far as we have, and I think it's wise for us to modify this assignment so that it meets our current situation head on. In this essay, you must simply reflect on the feedback you've received this semester on your previous work AND write a personal response to the events of the semester. This assignment will accomplish several important goals: a) writing practice, both in adjusting to the tone and form of the assignment AND in awareness of sentence-level clarity and style; b) meeting the goals of this course in a way that matches the moment; and 3) taking pressure off of you to process new material in the middle of a stressful and life-changing pandemic.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS ESSAY:**

- *PREPARE TO WRITE:* Practice metacognition: carefully read and reflect on the feedback you've received on your process writing and final papers. Consider what this feedback reveals, both in terms of what's working and in what could be stronger. Thoughtful reflection during the pre-writing phase and, if it works well for you, during your free-writing, will help you approach this assignment in an effective and informed way. For the final component, the reflection on the events of the semester, a bit of free-writing could go a long way. Ask yourself questions like: What impact has COVID-19 had on my experience with education and/or in my life in general? What adjustments have I made? What has this experience led me to think about? How do I feel about the shift to online learning? How has my personal view changed? Etc. There is NO pressure to answer all these questions in your paper. These are just prompts to get you thinking about the current moment, a way into reflection.
- *PART ONE:* The first part of this paper is often referred to as metacognitive reflection writing. Metacognition simply means thinking about thinking; in your assignment, this translates to thinking about writing and about what you learn from the thinking. You can see a sample of metacognitive reflection on my website (here: [https://pamwmurphy.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/7/0/22707862/metacognitive\\_reflection\\_example.pdf](https://pamwmurphy.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/7/0/22707862/metacognitive_reflection_example.pdf)). Basically, the aim is to identify opportunities for improving your writing based on comments AND ways you might address those kinds of writing issues in future essay assignments. It's also useful to reflect on what you're already doing well—this helps you develop awareness of your own growth and accomplishment as thinkers and writers.

- *PART TWO:* For the final component of your short reflection paper, I'd like you to reflect on the experience of having classes moved online this semester and on the context for that shift. This last part gives you plenty of freedom-- you can take an academic tone to discuss the impact of the pandemic on education OR you can muse in a more personal way on your own response to these changes and to this experience overall.
- *STYLE AND CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ACADEMIC ENGLISH:* Develop understanding about how the choices you make concerning tone and style impact your readers, as well as your own ethos as a writer/thinker. As you do this, you will work to develop or hone an understanding of audience and purpose.

**Deadline: DUE IN HARD COPY AND IN COURSEDEN DROPBOX  
BY POSTED DATE AND TIME.**