**ENGL 1301 Major Writing Assignment Reflections**

[Video Overview](https://youtu.be/8kf90V3S9-w)

Overview

After each Major Writing Assignment (Emblematic Essay, Informative Synthesis Essay, and Argument Essay), you'll complete a thoughtful reflection on your writing experience. This metacognitive exercise helps you understand your own writing process, identify what works well for you, and develop strategies for continued improvement.

**Important**: These three reflections will be averaged for **35% of your final grade**.

Tips for Success

1. **Be specific**: Instead of "The prewriting was helpful," try "The object description list in Prewriting 1 helped me notice details I'd overlooked, especially the sounds and textures."
2. **Connect to your goals**: Think about what you wanted to achieve with this essay and whether you succeeded.
3. **Consider the full process**: Reflect on everything from brainstorming to final revisions, not just the end result.
4. **Be honest**: Authentic reflection leads to genuine growth. It's okay to admit what didn't work well.
5. **Look forward**: Use this reflection to set yourself up for success on the next assignment.

Remember: This reflection is about YOUR learning and growth as a writer. Take this opportunity to really understand your own processes so you can become a more effective, confident writer.

Specific Requirements

Format Options

Choose ONE format:

* **Written reflection in business letter format**: approximately 2-3 pages, single spaced

[See samples](https://kelli.ninja/reflections.html)

* + - [Writing down the Basics](http://kelli.ninja/Writing_down_the_Basics.pdf) pp 137-140
    - [Business Letter: Basic Format and Outline](https://youtu.be/k817kkOBRhE) (Video)
* **Video reflection**: 4-6 minutes of thoughtful discussion
  + You should script this and practice before recording. The writing center is a great place to do this.

Both formats should demonstrate equal depth of reflection and analysis.

Remember, the writing center tutors can and you’ll get extra credit!

Core Reflection Questions

Address each of the following areas in your reflection, providing specific examples and concrete details:

1. What Went Well?

Celebrate your successes! Discuss the parts of your writing process and final essay that you feel good about. Consider:

* Which prewriting activities were most helpful?
* What aspects of your final essay are you most proud of?
* What feedback from peers, the writing center, or conferences was particularly valuable?
* Which writing techniques or strategies worked well for you?

2. What Was Challenging?

Honestly assess the difficulties you encountered. Think about:

* Which parts of the assignment were harder than expected?
* Where did you get stuck or feel frustrated?
* What aspects of the writing process need more attention?
* Which requirements or concepts were confusing at first?

### **3.** What Helped You Work Through Difficulties?

Analyze your problem-solving strategies and support systems:

* How did you move past challenges or writer's block?
* What resources proved most valuable (classmates, writing center, instructor conferences, technology, family/friends)?
* Which specific tools or techniques helped you think through ideas?
* How did conversations with others clarify your thinking?

### **4.** Plans for Improvement

Set concrete, actionable goals for your next major writing assignment:

* What specific skills do you want to develop?
* What changes will you make to your writing process?
* Which resources will you use more intentionally?
* What practical steps will you take? (Examples: "I'll start my draft three days earlier," "I'll visit the writing center before my first draft," "I'll put my phone in another room while writing")

Using AI Ethically and Effectively

Having Productive AI Conversations

If you choose to use AI to help with your reflection, here's how to have meaningful conversations while maintaining your authentic voice:

**DO:**

* Use AI as a thinking partner: "I'm struggling to find what went well in my writing process. Can you help me think through some questions to ask myself?"
* Seek clarification: "I wrote about X, but I'm not sure how to explain why it was challenging. What kinds of details might help me be more specific?"
* Get feedback on your ideas: "Here's what I think I learned from this assignment. What questions might help me dig deeper?"

**DON'T:**

* Ask AI to write your reflection for you
* Copy AI responses without adding your own thoughts and experiences
* Use AI to generate experiences you didn't actually have

Maintaining Your Authentic Voice

To ensure your reflection stays true to YOUR experience:

1. **Start with your own thoughts first**: Write down your initial ideas before consulting any AI tools
2. **Use specific personal details**: Include concrete examples from YOUR writing process that only you would know
3. **Read your draft aloud**: Does it sound like you? If not, revise to match your natural speaking voice
4. **Add personal touches**: Use your typical expressions, examples from your life, and your honest reactions
5. **Compare to your other writing**: Does this reflection sound consistent with your voice in class discussions or other assignments?

Required AI Usage Disclosure

**You must include an AI disclosure statement if you used any AI tools.** Add this at the end of your reflection:

Sample disclosure statements:

*Simple AI assistance*: "I used [Put the name of AI here] to help me brainstorm questions to ask myself about my writing process. All experiences, examples, and reflections are my own."

*More extensive AI help*: "I used [Put the name of AI here] to help me organize my thoughts and improve the clarity of my explanations. I wrote my initial ideas first, then asked [Put the name of AI here] for feedback on how to be more specific. All experiences and reflections are my own, and I revised the AI suggestions to match my voice."

*No AI used*: "I did not use any AI tools for this reflection."

Submission Instructions

* **Written reflections**: Submit as a Word document or PDF through Blackboard in letter format.
* **Video reflections**: Upload to the YouTube and provide the link through the assignment on Blackboard.
* **Due date**: One week after receiving your graded essay back
* Include your AI disclosure statement (even if you didn't use AI)

Grading Criteria

Your reflection will be evaluated on:

* **Depth of reflection**: Do you move beyond surface-level observations to genuinely analyze your experience?
* **Specificity**: Do you provide concrete examples and details rather than vague generalizations?
* **Actionable planning**: Are your improvement goals realistic and specific?
* **Honest self-assessment**: Do you thoughtfully consider both strengths and areas for growth?
* **Clear communication**: Is your reflection well-organized and easy to follow?
* **Appropriate length**: Does your reflection meet the minimum requirements while staying focused?

**Note about grammar and mechanics**: You should use spelling and grammar check tools and may use AI to help smooth out awkward phrasing, *but the ideas, experiences, and voice must be authentically yours.*

**General Grading Scale**

* **Advanced (A): 90-100%** - Exceeds expectations for freshman composition
* **Emerging (B): 80-89%** - Meets expectations with some sophisticated elements
* **Developing (C): 70-79%** - Meets basic expectations for freshman composition
* **Beginning (D/F): Below 70%** - Does not meet minimum expectations; needs significant improvement

Reflection Assignment Rubric

**Focus: Metacognitive thinking, self-assessment, and planning for improvement**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Advanced (A)** | **Emerging (B)** | **Developing (C)** | **Beginning (D/F)** |
| **Depth of Self-Analysis** | Demonstrates sophisticated understanding of own writing process; moves beyond surface observations to genuine insight | Shows good understanding of writing process with some analytical depth; reflects meaningfully on experience | Basic reflection on writing process but analysis may be superficial or general | Minimal reflection; fails to demonstrate understanding of own writing process |
| **Specific Examples & Details** | Uses concrete, specific examples from writing experience to support reflections; details help readers understand the process | Generally uses specific examples to support reflections; adequate detail about writing experience | Some specific examples but may rely on generalizations; limited detail about actual writing process | Lacks specific examples; relies on vague generalizations about writing experience |
| **Honest Self-Assessment** | Thoughtfully identifies both strengths and areas for improvement; realistic and balanced assessment | Identifies strengths and challenges with general accuracy; mostly realistic self-assessment | Some identification of strengths and challenges but assessment may be unclear or unrealistic | Little evidence of genuine self-assessment; unrealistic or minimal identification of strengths/challenges |
| **Actionable Planning** | Sets specific, realistic goals with concrete steps for improvement; plans are well-connected to identified challenges | Sets appropriate goals with some specific steps; plans are generally realistic and connected to reflection | Basic goal-setting but plans may be vague or not clearly connected to identified areas for improvement | Minimal or unrealistic goal-setting; plans lack specificity or connection to reflection |
| **Clear Communication** | Well-organized, engaging reflection that effectively communicates insights; appropriate length and format | Generally well-organized with clear communication; meets length and format requirements | Basic organization and communication; may not fully meet length or format requirements | Poor organization or communication makes reflection difficult to follow; doesn't meet requirements |
| **Authentic Voice & AI Disclosure** | Maintains authentic personal voice throughout; appropriate and honest disclosure of any AI assistance used | Generally maintains personal voice; accurate disclosure of AI use with minor issues | Some evidence of personal voice but may be inconsistent; adequate AI disclosure | Lacks authentic voice or feels generic; inadequate or missing AI disclosure |

[Link to Sample Reflections](https://kelli.ninja/reflections.html)