

# ENGL 1301 MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT REFLECTIONS

## 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**.

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## 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.

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## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

### FORMAT OPTIONS

Choose ONE format:

- **Written reflection in business letter format:** approximately 2-3 pages, single spaced
  - [Writing down the Basics](#) pp 137-140
  - [Business Letter: Basic Format and Outline](#) (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.

[See samples](#)

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."

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### 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)
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### 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**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Advanced (A)</b>	<b>Emerging (B)</b>	<b>Developing (C)</b>	<b>Beginning (D/F)</b>
<b>Depth of Self-Analysis</b>	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
<b>Specific Examples &amp; Details</b>	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
<b>Honest Self-Assessment</b>	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
<b>Actionable Planning</b>	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
<b>Clear Communication</b>	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
<b>Authentic Voice &amp; AI Disclosure</b>	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](#)