

English 101 Portfolio
Essay Cover Sheet

Instructor
Prefix

Student Identification
Number

Please type or print.

What was the writing assignment? (Use your teacher's words or attach the assignment.)

Final Reflective Writing Assignment

For your Final Portfolio Reading, you'll need to include a piece of writing that discusses your writing and the choices you've made as a thinker and a writer. This piece can be in the form of a letter or an essay. In either case, there must be a clearly stated main idea supported by explanations and specific examples.

For the development and support of this piece, draw from your two research papers, lessons learned through class discussion and the writing process itself, as well as insights gained from reading the texts, "How to write with style, by Kurt Vonnegut, "Listening to Students: New Insights on Their College-writing Expectations" by Lorna Collier and "What Do Professors Say about College Writing," by Elizabeth Brockman, et al. Use direct and indirect quotations from any of these texts to illustrate the supporting points you make.

Length: 2 or more pages, but no longer than 4. Format: MLA (Remember to cite your sources.)

Dear Portfolio Reader,

I wanted to first thank you for taking the time to read my portfolio. Looking back at my mindset at the beginning of the quarter in relation to where I am at now I feel I have made significant progress in my confidence as a writer. Coming into this English class I had anxiety from being away from school for some time but I knew that I have always enjoyed writing and the ability to express my mind through my writing to a point where it resonates with the reader. My desires to get the best possible product to my reader made me set aside my ego and ask for help. I wrote draft after draft, rereading each sentence to make sure I was expressing myself to the best of my abilities. Then I would reach out to family and friends, sending them drafts of my papers and asking that they take the time to read and revise to the best of their abilities. From sentence structure to grammar, I was able to further explain my point of view to others, which allowed me to understand the writing process even better. I came in with a creative, freelance and unstructured writing style. A writing style that is not strongly suited for the academic classroom. After reading articles like, "How to write with style" and, "Listening to Students: New Insights on Their College- Writing Expectations" I realized that every form of writing has a place in English and helps one prepare for growth, progress, and the ability to learn. The second writing assignment we had in class grabbed my attention and was something I intellectually enjoyed. It was a texted-based essay on habits of the mind. It allowed me to research and look deeply into my thinking, discovering what I can build on as an individual. I learned throughout class this

quarter that the process and research that goes into my paper before the writing process even begins is where the success and overall ability to support and structure the paper comes from.

Taking intellectual risks and giving my writing a voice has allowed me to build a strong foundation in my writing. Indulging into the process and gathering information that supports my viewpoints and allows me to write with credibility has been an enjoyable experience. Summarizing and paraphrasing content, giving correct credit to authors allows the reader to understand that this is not just a personal opinion but something they can reference and look to for further information. As stated in, "What Do Professors Really Say about College writing" they explain the summary process as, "Indeed, a summary requires a close and accurate reading, including the ability to discern the author's main point and then to relay that point objective and fair-mindedly either (a) to report precisely the authors content or (b) to foreground key elements as background for a subsequent arguments." In my second writing assignment, "Mindset Awareness" I was able to support psychologist Carol Dwecks beliefs based on actual studies she had performed that I found related back to my own life experiences and therefor made me support and agree with her research. Her studies explain and breakdown the benefits of a growth mindset and a fixed mindset. This has correlated well with the writing process and my ability to retain information and relate to the characteristics of a well-versed writer, building on the continuous process within writing.

The article we referenced and annotated in class, "How to write with style" resonated with me. Being the creative type I tend to gravitate towards creating an image or feeling. Whither that be in my artwork, music or writing, I want the individual to be able to relate with a feeling, opinion or understanding. I found myself throughout the writing process relating

back to personal experiences and trying to weave them in and out of my writing, finding research that supports my message along the way. My first paper called, "I Believe" was about passion and how my passions drive me as an individual. What activities and beliefs need to be present in my daily routine in order for me to be successful as a person, in my own eyes? I feel that being the passionate and emotional person that I am comes through in my writing. I tend to put myself out there, taking risks including personal experiences that others may be taken back by but have been a vital part to the growth of me as a person. Expressing that vulnerability in my writing, I believe, correlates well with my style as a writer.

My overall impression and understanding of the writing process and what goes into it is what I have taken away from this class the most. In the article, "What Do Professors Really Say about College Writing" they discuss, "The importance of reading, the value of summary and critique, the role of managing source materials, and the need for taking intellectual risks" this all correlates well with what I have learned and gained in my writing throughout this quarter. I also believe the way in which the information has been explained and brought to me through my professor has been vital to my learning process and overall enjoyment of the class. I came in with a shaky, unstructured style of writing. However, I believe I now have a foundation to my writing and a strong structure that will benefit it going forward.

Sincerely,

Work Cited

Vonnegut, Kurt. "How to Write With Style". *Open Culture*. 1982 International Paper Company, 10 Nov. 2014. Print.

Collier, Lorna. "Listening to Students: New Insights on Their College- Writing Expectations." *Active Reading*. The Council Chronicle, Mar. 2014. Print.

Brockman, Elizabeth, et al. "What Do Professors Really Say about College Writing." *English Journal*, vol. 100.3 (2011): 75-81. National Council of Teachers of English, 2011. Print