

# Reflective Introduction Essay

FYS 6: LGBTQ+ Rights in the Internet Era  
Writing Fellow: Leila Anzalone

# Reflection Survey



# What is the Writing Portfolio?

A composition of your best, or most polished, writing from your Fall and Spring FYS

- Consists of four double-spaced, 12-point font essays:
  - ◆ At least **one expository (thesis-driven)** essay
  - ◆ At least **two essays** that implement external evidence
  - ◆ Your Reflective Introduction Essay (RIE)
- Total word count: 5,000-7,000 words
- Must erase all identifying information

# First Stage Writing Requirement

## Submission of Portfolio

Submitted by March 1, 5pm

1.

## Satisfactory Markings

In both fall and spring FYS courses

2.

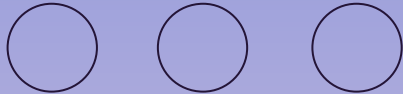
3.

## Portfolio Evaluation

Indicating proficiency by at least two Portfolio Assessors



# More Requirements and Details



- Google “writing portfolio oxy”
- Includes all requirements, the rubric used to evaluate your writing, and a sample RIE!
- More info on the formatting, details of the portfolio



# What to Focus On Now

## Final Paper

### Revisions


Expanding and  
polishing

## RIE

### Reflections


How did you revise?  
How did you improve?






# What is the RIE?

## The Prompt



“The reflective essay is an opportunity for you to articulate your knowledge about writing and yourself as a writer. It is the first piece of writing that will be read by your portfolio readers, and its purpose is to give your readers insight into your development as a writer and what you have gained from your writing experiences thus far (in the FYS). The reflective essay is your opportunity to draw your readers’ attention to what you believe are the strengths and most important qualities of your writing. The RIE also provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your writing, its strengths and weaknesses, and your writing process.”



# Breaking Down the Prompt

01. Writing Experience

Address your high school writing experience, and how you view yourself as a writer

02. Development

What have you learned about yourself as a writer from your FYS?

03. Improvement

How have you improved?  
Where do you still need to improve?

04. Circumstances

Anything you want your readers to know?  
Clarify here!





# Structuring Your R.I.E.



## Paragraph #1

Introduction  
(~200 words)

## Paragraph #2

Reflection on FYS  
Essay #1  
(~150 words)

## Paragraph #3

Reflection on FYS  
Essay #2  
(~150 words)

## Paragraph #4

Reflection on FYS  
Essay #3 (~150  
words)

Note: Conclusion is  
OPTIONAL

LIMIT: 750 words

# Structuring Your R.I.E.

## Introduction

- Briefly introduce yourself as a writer, focusing on...
  - Your writing knowledge
  - Your growth as a student
  - Areas for improvement
- It's okay to include a thesis-statement like sentence at the end of this paragraph

## Body Paragraphs

- The title of the essay
- Concise, 1-2 sentence summary of the assignment
- Reflection about what you learned...
  - Writing this paper in particular
  - College writing expectations
  - Your writing process



# “Don’ts” of the R.I.E.

**Do not** wait until the last minute to write your RIE!

**Do not** use an informal, casual tone

**Do not** sugarcoat your weaknesses

**Do not** talk ONLY about your writing prompts



# Example Body Paragraph

My essay titled “The Anonymous Killers” is an expository paper from my first semester CSP course. Although the choices of prompts were very broad, the assignment was to analyze poetry using close reading techniques and compare a poem by Charles Baudelaire with one by Arthur Rimbaud. Although the paragraphs in my essay comparing and contrasting their work were connected in my first drafts, I lacked a clear focus in each paragraph. During the revising process, I broke down my body paragraphs from my previous drafts and reconstructed them to create a cohesive flow between points. Using my conclusion to reshape my introduction, I could tackle the mini-theses of my body paragraphs to form clearer points and adjust my focus. During my pre-writing, I did not utilize Walter Benjamin’s scholarly work as much as I should have, given that he is essential in evaluating the work of both Rimbaud and Baudelaire. By using Benjamin’s view on the shock effects of modernity, I explored both Rimbaud and Baudelaire’s work at an angle that applies isolation and post-Romanticism effects to both poets.

# Writing a Reflection

## What?

What did you revise?

What parts of your paper did you revise?

## Why?

Why is it important to revise?

What were the strengths/weaknesses of your paper and how did your process and revisions reflect those elements?

## How?

How did you approach the process?

How did you revise, or how did you approach your process for this paper in general?



# Writing Fellow Final Survey



# Your Turn!

## Instructions

- 1) Identify 3 steps you took during your writing process
  - 2) Identify 2 areas of improvement to revise
  - 3) Identify 1 strength/weakness from your paper
- ★ HOW are you revising? And WHY is it important in shaping your argument and writing in general?

## Guiding Questions

- What was your paper about?
- How did you feel while writing the paper?
- Did you seek help with editing/revising the paper?
- What did you do while writing this paper that was different than your past writing projects?
- What would you do differently if you had to write this paper now?





# Thanks!

## Office Hours and WC

**Leila's Office Hours:** Mondays 1-3pm  
(MONDAY 12/11 ON ZOOM)

**Prof. Buckmire's Office Hours:** 3-4pm M-F

**Writing Center:** Sunday to Thursday, 4-10pm

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