

WSUN 102D Discovering Humanity - Engber

Reflective Essay Assignment (30 points possible)

Draft Due (5 points): December 8th

Final Due (25 points): December 13th by 11:59pm

Length

- for Essay Option: 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced with 1" margins and a list of at least 2 sources from this class that were most useful or interesting to you this semester in APA or MLA format. (List of sources must be on a separate page in addition to the 4-5 pages.)
- for Portfolio option: Include 5 components minimum including a brief organized essay of 500 words or more; images with captions; artifacts from this class and, if you choose, from other classes; and a list of at least 2 sources from this class that were most useful or interesting to you this semester. Your sources do not have to be in APA or MLA format, but they should include all of the relevant information such as author, title, and date of publication.

Assignment:

This assignment asks you to practice a habit of mind called “folio thinking” or “integrative thinking.”

Folio thinking is a process of engaging in the collection, organization, reflection and connection that leads to a person’s ability to speak intelligently and concisely (i.e. tell stories) about one’s learning experiences, what they mean and their value, and how the experiences relate one to each other.

- Vicki Suter [Folio Thinking | Vicki Suter \(vsuter.org\)](https://vsuter.org)

Create a portfolio page that reflects your intellectual, professional, innovative, and transformational development this semester and addresses the questions:

- What ideas or experiences from this semester have been most meaningful to you?
- What have you learned about yourself this semester?

You may choose to review, revise, and expand your *Once I Was; Now I Am* essay into a longer reflection essay that considers the work you’ve done over the course of this semester. If you choose this option, review the original assignment and follow the instructions – and you may choose to include your why.

Expectations

A reflection essay or reflective assignment is not speculative or vague. It speaks to the development of your ideas, but it has a specific point to make and is supported by evidence and explanation of your evidence.

- Write a thoughtful, well-organized essay with an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
- Demonstrate reflection on your reading and research for this class and other experiences in your first semester as a college student.

- Give substantial evidence to support your ideas. For an essay, this will be in the form of writing. For a portfolio page, you must include a brief, organized essay (500 words or more) and incorporate images and other evidence/artifacts.
- You must include some evidence from your research or reading this semester and may include a story to illustrate your points. For example:
 - Consider how your research changes (or doesn't change) how you think about humanity and what makes us human or inhuman.
 - Incorporate quotations or data from your research. Explain.
 - Consider which reading/viewing had the most impact on you and explain how/why. Incorporate quotations from one of the texts we read or videos watched this semester.
 - Tell a story about an experience you had this semester. Connect it to your research or reading.
- Use grammatical and stylistic conventions.

Evaluation

A successful essay or portfolio will have these characteristics:

- The essay/portfolio has something to say and says it well.
- It presents an educated point of view that responds to the assignment prompt/questions.
- All evidence is appropriately cited. If you are using an image, provide the source information when relevant.
- Ideas are engaging or sophisticated and demonstrate reflection on coursework and individual development.

Tips for Writing and Revising

Read more about Digital Storytelling here: [Digital Stories in ePortfolios \(electronicportfolios.org\)](http://digitalstoriesineportfolios.org)

To prepare to write or create, you should:

- Reread your *Once I Was; Now I Am* essay to remind yourself of the beginning of the semester.
- Consider how you could add/tell the story of a significant experience or experiences you had this semester. For your essay, this could become your introductory or concluding paragraph or could be a body paragraph providing evidence of your reflection on the development of your ideas and your role as a student. For your portfolio page, this could be an image with a caption or a video.
- Consider whether you'd like to be a little creative or take a safe risk in the essay. For example, you may choose to use some visual evidence such as a comic or other illustration in addition to more standard academic or experiential evidence.
- Read your essay out loud before you turn it in. Imagine you are reading to one other student in the class.