

Project 4 - Reflective Analysis: Person, Place or Thing

Due Dates:

First draft - Monday, November 25

Final draft - Wednesday, December 4

Note: This project is *not* revisable.

Reading Assignment:

"Reflections," pp. 214-221.

Assignment Description:

Reflective writing could best be described as *thinking with an ink pen*. Or perhaps a keyboard, instead. It is *thinking* while writing. It uses questions, uncertainty, guesses, curiosity, exploration, and a playful attitude to present a personal topic to the reader. Instead of arguing or attempting to persuade each other, for this assignment, reader and writer are moving together toward a better understanding of the topic. Openness and curiosity are the key attitudes for Project 4.

This assignment basically asks you to do two things.

Step 1: Describe

You must describe your topic as fully as possible. Go into detail about its physical attributes as much as you can. This means spending time with your topic, observing it, and making detailed notes, if at all possible. If you can't experience your topic first-hand (because, for example, it's 5,000 miles away), then you may need to use the help of friends or family members to collect photographs, answer questions, or otherwise fill in the gaps.

Whatever your topic, be sure to include a **comparison** between your topic and something else that will be familiar to readers. It can be straightforward ("My bedroom back home is like a castle because...") or strange ("I held that triangular stone everywhere I went, and memorized each of its curves and crevices. Every time I needed strength, I rubbed my thumb against its broadest side. It was like a vital organ that had somehow escaped my body..."), but in general, the more creative the better. See where the comparison leads.

Step 2: Reflect

Using questions and speculation, think about the significance of your topic. Try to imagine your life without it. Freewrite about it and be open to new perspectives on a familiar person, place or thing.

The use of *one* outside source will help with either your description or your reflection (more on that later). Here are your options for choosing a topic. Pick *only* one of the following:

Option 1: Person

Think about someone you know, and who you admire. Someone who inspires you or motivates you. Include **descriptions** of this person: their physical appearance, their tone of voice, their style, their