

## Assessment Workshop

(This assignment is handed out on Wednesday)

**Goals of this Workshop:** This workshop is intended to teach you how to assign a grade on a reflective essay. You will also learn how to write a reflective essay for the portfolio assignment you will turn in at the end of the semester.

Your task is to critique a student's reflective essay that is provided. Read the prompt and the essay and do the following:

Discuss the following questions within your peer-group:

- Has the student responded effectively to the prompt?
- How do higher order concerns and lower order concerns factor into this student's essay?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of her essay?
- What suggestions would you give to the student to improve, and how would you go about doing so?

Discuss the grade you would give this essay (consider it a final draft), and find out whether it matches with the grade your instructor would give (use the rubric we have already discuss in class). Resolve any discrepancies with your instructor.

Do the following by Monday the coming week:

Write a 2-3 page feedback letter to the student who wrote this essay. Your letter should assess its strengths and weaknesses. Your letter should include quotations from the essay handed out in class and may include feedback from your instructor and peers. While you may choose the narrative mode for this letter, be sure to offer concrete examples and explanations. Using the grading rubric we discussed in class, assign a grade to this essay and then justify it in your letter.

After you have turned in the feedback letter and before Wednesday's class the following week, please meet with your instructor for a 15 minute conference (sign-up sheets are posted outside the door of your instructor's office. If none of the times listed work for you, please arrange an alternate time with your instructor).

(I will not grade your letters, but your performance on them will be counted like class participation and will weigh 10% of your final grade.)

**The prompt for a reflective essay for SAGES is as follows:**

The reflective essay introduces your work to the Writing Portfolio Committee. It is a **new** piece of writing, though you may wish to consult your First Seminar reflection paper (if you completed one) as you compose this essay. The portfolio reflective essay should both comment on the pieces you have selected for your portfolio and assess your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. The essay should include quotations from your own work and may include feedback from your seminar leaders and co-instructors. While you may choose the narrative mode for this essay, be sure to offer concrete examples and explanations of your strengths and weaknesses. In other words, simply stating that you are now “a better writer” than you were when you matriculated is not enough. Instead, *demonstrate* your strengths by offering examples from your work that showcase your ability to write thoughtful, analytical essays that fulfill the SAGES writing criteria.

In your reflective essay, consider answering some of the following questions: What do you think you achieved in the essays you selected? What did you learn in the process of writing and revising them? How do the essays collected in the portfolio demonstrate your writing strengths? What areas of your writing will you continue working to improve? What themes or questions emerge from your writing experience in SAGES?

*(You will be provided a model essay written by a student who is not in your class)*