



2013 Rivers Institute Reflection Paper Details

Description

- Reflection papers provide a mechanism to explore ideas that are not necessarily covered in class or that you may be hesitant to share in the less structured discussion forums. They allow you to apply what you are learning to your personal life experiences and to your practice.
- Reflection papers develop complex insights and theories, and allow you to speculate about the future. Most significantly, reflection papers allow you to engage in the process of experiencing the harmony or dissonance between perspectives experienced in the course and your own. Reflection papers value experience and the vivid articulation of that experience.
- Reflection papers should explore the underlying value implications of the concepts explored in class sessions and relate them to your own personal experience, observations and beliefs.
- You may want explore any dissonance between your practice and the new perspectives you have experienced in the course; to challenge the value of new practices; to make analogies to other things that you have learned; or to critically interrogate the priorities being set by some aspect of the class sessions.

Schematic Features

A reflection paper contains the following elements. These elements need not be written in this sequence, but *your reflection should demonstrate these features*:

- **Orientation**- Orient the reader by giving background on the experience on which you are reflecting, including the context of the experience.
- **Connections**- Identify and articulate the most meaningful connections you had to the experience. Describe any connections you made between your recent experience and previous experiences you have had, between new ideas and previously held thinking, between your experience and your teaching practice. How was this experience like or unlike something else you have done?
- **Insights and Impacts**- Describe the new understandings or insights you have gained through your experience. What do you understand now that you didn't before your experience? What do you now know as a result of making connections? What new ideas or perspectives have you constructed as a result of your experience? What impacts might these insights make on your practice?
- **Conclusions**- How will you use what you have learned? In what ways have your beliefs or practices changed as a result of your experience? In what ways might you change?

Format and Details

- 2-3 pages, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins
- No cover page necessary, page numbers in upper right corner
- First line of paper reads: *Reflection Paper – First and Last Name* (Example: *Reflection Paper – Cara Rieckenberg*)
- Document saved as: *Last Name Reflection Paper* (Example: *Rieckenberg Reflection Paper*)
- Document sent as attachment in email to Cara Rieckenberg (crieckenberg01@hamline.edu) before one month from last date of Institute. Subject line of email should read Last Name – Reflection.