

Tutoring & Empowerment Final reflection

The word *reflection* means the careful, ongoing consideration of a subject, and thus a **reflective essay** can be understood as a kind of essay with the explicit aim of understanding *yourself* participating in the process of understanding.

Duncan Carter and Sherrie Gradin describe the process of reflection this way: “Notice the metaphor in the word, reflection. Think of your subject as the reflective surface—a kind of mirror—and yourself (complete with your experiences and your culture) as the light source. When you examine the subject in your own light, what do you see? And how do you see yourself in the reflection? So, in general, to reflect on something would be to focus your attention on it, to play around with it in your mind, perhaps to analyze it, to think about its significance or how it connects to the things you have read or experienced. To be self-reflective is to examine yourself, your ideas, your assumptions, your experiences, and so on” (Writing as Reflective Action, 2).

Assignment: Write a 4-6 page essay reflecting on your Capstone experience this term, and in your reflection incorporate some reflection on all of the following questions. Please write this in essay form, so as to be able to address several interlocking issues in more depth, versus giving me a list of bulleted answers to separate questions.

The questions below are intended to foster thinking about your experience and are not intended to dictate structure. Finally, be detailed in your reflection—provide examples of specific connections to readings, experiences at NAYA, concepts, etc. to articulate what you’ve experienced and learned. This essay is key in both my understanding any personal learning you experienced in this Capstone and also helping shape recommendations for the next time this course is offered (what I might do differently, what recommendations you may have for NAYA, etc.).

- What do you feel you’ve learned from this Capstone class? (Try to think beyond just skills or academic content.) What did you find most challenging? Most rewarding? Why?
- Which of our texts (including films) did you find most helpful to your learning? Be specific (quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite as needed.) If you mention some already in your tutoring philosophy, just discuss any others that were particularly helpful.
- How might you apply what you’ve learned from this experience to future professional or personal situations? What might you do differently? In other words, what actions might you implement in the future, based on your experience with our readings, discussions, and volunteering at NAYA?
- Compare your expectations at the beginning of the course to your actual experience over the term. What does the comparison reveal about your ideals vs. the realities about volunteerism/service? About working with a community organization? About your personal growth and learning process?
- After going through this experience, what suggestions and advice you might have for future students? For NAYA, and for Anmarie?

Finally, please include your revised tutoring philosophy. You can include it as part of your essay above, or attach it as a separate document. (However, this should be in addition to the essay page count.)

Assessment: Since it is impossible (and arguably, ridiculous) to put a grade on someone’s personal experience, this essay will be assessed on mechanics, but more importantly on the thoughtfulness, depth, and clarity in communicating your reflection.