

NAYA Capstone: Weekly Reflection Assignment

Reflections DUE: Every Friday, before class

Responses DUE: beginning week 2, respond to at least one of your peers' reflections from the *previous* week.

Assignment description

Each week write a reflection on these two subjects:

- the readings due for the upcoming class session (so Reflection 1 will be about week 2's readings)
- your tutoring experiences for the week (Only during the weeks you mentor. If you didn't mentor that week, just add a sentence stating this.)

The weekly reflections are a crucial component of this class, and are used for the following purposes:

- provide me with insights into your experience at NAYA, which I use to prepare the class to meet your needs,
- preparing you to make the most of your in-class discussions
- extend our thinking and discussions beyond the class (especially as we have a limited time in class, so don't always get to everyone's ideas.)

When writing about the readings, do not summarize what you read in the text(s), but rather **consider how the texts connect in one or more ways, and/or how they connect to our work at NAYA**. There are many ways you can respond; here are some questions that may be helpful to consider: What passages or issues particularly resonated with you? Why? How does the perspective being discussed in the text compare to your own cultural and educational experiences? To what you've learned in other contexts? What connections do you see within this week's texts? Between the texts and your work at NAYA? Between texts and other readings, discussions, or experiences you've had in this Capstone so far? Also, if you are having difficulty relating how a text connects with our work at NAYA, please feel include that perspective as well, as that is important for our learning as a collective.

When writing about your experiences at NAYA, you might consider the following: What did you learn from your experience? What questions and issues do your experiences raise that you'd like to explore or understand further? What connections do you see between your work at NAYA and current or previous course readings, discussions, and experiences of others in the class? (Be specific in describing these connections, e.g. reference specific texts, etc.)

You can write your weekly reflection in two parts (text and NAYA experience separately), or you can weave them together, as you see them connect. The format should follow the needs of your thinking and experience.

Important note: NAYA asks that we do not use their students' names outside of NAYA itself, so in your reflections, refer to students by an initial.

An additional thought: In previous courses, some students have written about how they had strong emotional reactions to some of the readings, and wondered if this is appropriate to write about. It is appropriate, as emotional experiences are an important component of learning, though I would guide you to, instead of merely summarizing your reaction, turn the mirror on yourself and ask, *why* am reacting this way? What cultural or other "lens" is *influencing* the way I view the author's story or information? How might my experience with the issue (or lack thereof) be shaping my reaction? What do I want my peers to understand about my reaction? For example, if you find yourself feeling defensive about something the author is saying, one's first impulse may be to "argue" with the author. I'm encouraging you to instead take reflection a step further and ask yourself to actively listen to the author's perspective and, instead of arguing, wonder aloud the root of such strong emotions and how that shapes your listening and thinking about the subject.

You will post your reflection to D2L (in the Discussions area) BEFORE CLASS each week (see class schedule). Please do not post as an attachment; just copy and paste your reflection from your word-processing program into the Discussions field. (This insures everyone can read everyone else's posts, even if we're using different software programs.)

Assessment: I assess these only on the participation criteria outlined in the syllabus. If you do each reflection completely and thoughtfully, you will receive full credit. Important note: Missing three weekly reflections will result in your no longer being able to volunteer at NAYA. In addition, missing three replies to your peers will result in a failing grade for this portion of the class requirements. For more information on this assignment, see the course description.