

## **New Paltz Portfolio Reflection Letter**

Consider the following questions as you prepare to write your New Paltz Portfolio Reflective Letter.

### Self-Evaluation Writing Questions for Reflection:

1. Before this course what were my initial attitudes, feelings/ or ideas about my writing?
2. Has my attitude toward writing changed? In what ways?
3. How have I changed my writing process?
4. [If you chose to include your college essay in addition to the other pieces] Why did I include my college essay as part of my portfolio?
5. What revision would I still like to make in these essays?

### My assessment of my work:

Strengths:

Areas to work on:

## Sample Reflective Letter

When I signed up for this course, I had no clue what it was going to be like. I was scared because I wasn't too sure about my writing skills. After reading the catalogue description, I was frightened. I didn't want to share my writing with the entire class. I already experienced Creative Writing at another school, and I didn't want to go through that again. I hoped that my writing would be good enough to share with the class and to get a decent grade.

I think my attitude has changed from writing being mandatory to voluntary. I enjoyed seeing my writing develop over the course of the semester. I also no longer dread reading in front of a class because my writing is my writing. Some people will like it and others won't. I feel that my overall writing process has been altered. I found myself using the free writes to get ideas down onto paper. I used to write an entire paper then re-do it. The process of free writing and then picking out the main points was a lot easier. The three essays that I chose were my favorite ones from this semester. I chose my father's profile piece because I felt that I really captured him in it. I enjoyed writing about him and reliving memories from when I was younger. I chose my memoir piece because my boyfriend is a big part of my life right now. It was also fun for me to go back and think about the way things were in the beginning. I found myself talking to him about the awkward feelings that we both had. I chose my research paper because the two issues of thinness and eating disorders are very important to me. I enjoyed writing about something that I could put my feelings in and also learn something along the way. I also think that this is an issue that needs to be addressed by our society.

I am honestly very happy with my work. I enjoy reading what I wrote, but there are always little revisions that can be made. Every time I re-read my essays, I find myself adding more details or similes. I realize that these two simple things could change an essay from boring to great.

### My assessment of my work:

**Strengths:** I think one of my strengths was finding a way to relate with the audience. I also think I included good detail, which made it easier for the reader to understand what I was talking about. Another strength was using my personal experiences to bring life to my work.

**Areas to work on:** I know I need to work on my grammar. I also think I could use help varying my sentence structures. Another common mistake I make is being too vague at times and too detailed at other times.

**Grade:** I honestly think my grade should be around an A-. I feel that my writing has improved since the start of the semester. In the beginning I was very vague in my writing, and I feel that I have worked on that. I also feel that I learned a lot from the other students' writings and was often impressed by their writing skills.