

## PAR Reflection

The two pieces that I submitted for my english internship application were vastly different. During my English101 course at Roger Williams University, we studied different genres of writing and put those to practice. One of my pieces is analytical, and was written in reflection to the film *The American Sniper*. The other piece I submitted was a personal memoir and was turned into more of a creative piece. I find that both of these pieces take into account certain aspects of the Portfolio Assessment Rubric, however at some points, stray from the typical practices that it follows.

My first piece, titled *Family vs. War*, was written about the punishments that war takes on not only the soldiers themselves, but the families as well. In the introduction, I question certain aspects of war and highlight some of the issues families may go through. For instance, I ask the reader to imagine “the feeling of being left to reside in their homes, while their loved ones take on the dangers of those who wish to spread fear and terror driv[ing] a family to the uncertainty of their return”. Through this, I feel like I inhibited critical interpretation by asking the reader to reflect on how war may make them feel if one of their family members were to enlist. I then speak about the film itself, drawing from quotes from certain characters in hopes of giving my piece credibility. This credited my piece under the academic resource, through using real dialogue to strengthen my reflection and my argument. Throughout my piece as well I add creative aspects in an attempt to possibly pull on the heartstrings of the reader. I added a story about a little girl and her brother, who enlisted in the army. I explained the effects that it had on his little sister and in her mind, how her brother changed after the war. In this part of the piece, I

again attempted to demonstrate my own critical interpretation, along with trying to drive my controlling purpose, which is to show the effects that war has on families. Throughout this reflection, I ask the reader many questions, one of which being, “As a mother and a wife, how could she possibly move on from such a devastating turmoil?” in an attempt to address my point once again, while interacting with the reader to get them thinking about my topic. Throughout my entire piece, I analyze the different relationships, not only with the main characters of the movie, but with the fabricated story that I used for an example, along with a personal example of how war affected me and my family as well. In this piece, I believe that I did a pretty good job at creating something that inhibited most of the requirements of the rubric, creating a piece that hopefully made people think more about how war impacts family members of those who are enlisted.

My second piece was a memoir that expressed certain topics around me and my life. In this piece, I did not use any analytical practices and instead took a more creative outlook on it. Throughout the piece, I inhibit a central theme, which is me playing the cello. Through each string, I express a feeling or a memory that is tied to that note. I do use certain quotes made by my family members, however there is no direct evidence exhibited in my piece. My controlling purpose, however, was mentioned several times, which is my love for playing the cello and how it affects me and my everyday life. I identify the issue, or story I have at hand, and then use evaluation through my own personal point of view and then respond to it through me playing the cello. I am, however, very consistent throughout my piece, due to the common theme of me playing my cello through telling my story. In the end of my piece, I tie the conclusion back to the first paragraph through adding the line “All I need to do is pick myself back up and go back to

the A string, but first, I need a little more rosin.” I added this line at the end because I wanted to show the reader a certain continuity, showing them what my life is like in a way. I find that using specific textual evidence was not needed and may make my piece seem less connected to me, which is the main purpose of writing a memoir.

I feel like in both of my pieces, I exhibit either an academic discourse or critical interpretation instead of really implementing both. In my first piece, I did a lot better at including both practices, however in my second piece I completely ignored the use of quotes and lines of reasoning.