

12th Grade Reflective Research Essay Rubric

Situation: Looking at your senior portfolio, analyze your growth and strengths. What future plans and goals emerge?

Directions: Write an essay in which you use your reflective letters from your portfolio to explore your academic growth, your community service experiences, and research your emerging future plans.

Before papers can be evaluated, they must be at least 1500 words in length and must have all sources documented with a works cited page. Any score of one (1) on the rubric will result in an automatic grade of F (59 %).

5(A) Advanced

- **Introduction/Conclusion:** Expertly introduce the topic; organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole. Expertly provides a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the essay, and follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- **Reflection/Elaboration:** Expertly reflects upon growths, strengths, and future plans; develops the topics thoroughly by selecting and reflecting upon the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- **Structure:** Expertly uses appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- **Language:** Expertly uses precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Tone:** Expertly establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- **Research:** Expertly synthesizes multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of the subject; uses authoritative, relevant sources, integrates Information into the text, avoids overreliance on any one source, follows MLA format for citations.
- **Conventions:** Expertly demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

4(B) Proficient

- **Introduction/Conclusion:** Effectively introduces the topic; organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole. Effectively provides a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the essay, and follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- **Elaboration/Reflection:** Effectively reflects upon growths, strengths, and future plans; develops the topics thoroughly by selecting and reflecting upon the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- **Structure:** Effectively uses appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- **Language:** Effectively uses precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Tone:** Effectively establishes and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- **Research:** Effectively synthesizes multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of the subject; uses authoritative, relevant sources, integrates Information into the text, avoids over-reliance on any one source, follows MLA format for citations.

- **Conventions:** Effectively demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

3(C) Basic

- **Introduction/Conclusion:** Introduces the topic; organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole. Provides a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the essay, and follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- **Elaboration/Reflection:** Reflects upon growths, strengths, and future plans; develops the topics thoroughly by selecting and reflecting upon the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- **Structure:** Uses appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- **Language:** Uses precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Tone:** Establishes and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- **Research:** Synthesizes multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of the subject; uses authoritative, relevant sources, integrates Information into the text, avoids overreliance on any one source, follows MLA format for citations.
- **Conventions:** Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

2(D) Below Basic

- **Introduction/Conclusion:** Makes an attempt to introduce the topic; to organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole. Makes an attempt to provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the essay, and follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- **Elaboration/Reflection:** Makes an attempt to reflect upon growths, strengths, and future plans; to develop the topics thoroughly by selecting and reflecting upon the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- **Structure:** Makes an attempt to use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- **Language:** Makes an attempt to use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Tone:** Makes an attempt to establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- **Research:** Makes an attempt to synthesize multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of the subject; use authoritative, relevant sources, integrate Information into the text, avoids over-reliance on any one source, follow MLA format for citations.
- **Conventions:** Makes an attempt to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

1(F 59%) Far Below Basic

- **Introduction/Conclusion:** Attempts and fails to introduce the topic; to organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole. Attempts and fails to provides a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the essay, and follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- **Elaboration/Reflection:** Attempts and fails to reflect upon growths, strengths, and future plans; to develop the topics thoroughly by selecting and reflecting upon the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- **Structure:** Attempts and fails to use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- **Language:** Attempts and fails to use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- **Tone:** Attempts and fails to establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- **Research:** Attempts and fails to synthesize multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of the subject; use authoritative, relevant sources, integrate Information into the text, avoids overreliance on any one source, follow MLA format for citations.
- **Conventions:** Attempts and fails to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

*Research source guidelines:

- ☐ No encyclopedias (unless specialized encyclopedias such as medical, sports, automobile, etc.)
- ☐ Maximum of 2 personal interviews of people with expertise in the field

**An acceptable essay will reflect on the *four research components* of the senior portfolio:

- ☐ Kuder Assignments
- ☐ Community Service Log
- ☐ Reflective Windows or Best Works
- ☐ Career Path Research