

ENGL1101/1102/1103

THE INTRODUCTORY REFLECTIVE ESSAY (IRE) FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO

The Introductory Reflective Essay should have a thesis and should analyze and synthesize the elements of your First-year English 1101 or 1102/1103 Portfolio.

Essentially, what this means is that you will be writing a clear, concise, thesis-driven essay that introduces your portfolio, makes a central claim or claims, describes, and draws conclusions about your writing, revising, and editing with regard to this class. write more and edit it down to your very best 750-1500 words.

Your IRE nearly- and ready to present to class with your portfolio by the beginning of the last class before portfolios are due. Upload them to Emma in

1. Your first step in writing this IRE is to brainstorm, free write, map, or journal on the following topic:

What are the most important or interesting or helpful or distinctive learned or confirmed about (my) writing by participating in this course?

2. Next, answer this question:  
What is in my portfolio (and elsewhere) that I can use to show/demonstrate these things? Where can I find my supporting evidence?

Your answer to the first question will provide the foundation of your thesis claim, while your a claim.

All of the material you have written for this class and all of the material you have included in

need to fully develop your body paragraphs. **Providing plenty of specific evidence to support clear topics** is, as always, the foundation of a strong IRE.

Here are some other possible topics that you might want to address as you are developing the introduction, body paragraphs, or the conclusion of your IRE:

- Explain why you chose each of the exhibits that you have included in your portfolio.
- Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses as a writer in any part of the writing and composing processes (keeping a grammar log, doing research, pre-writing, drafting, editing, peer editing, post-writing). Use portions of your portfolio exhibits and other documents to provide supporting evidence/examples.

- Reflect on your strengths and weakness as a writer in any area of the craft itself (the **Grading Rubric** elements: unity, evidence, presentation, coherence, audience awareness, imagination, etc.). Use portions of your portfolio exhibits and other documents to provide supporting evidence/examples.
- Comment on the most interesting, most difficult, the most surprising things you learned about yourself as a writer.
- Describe what is difficult for you and/or what is easy for you about the writing process.
- Describe how the different skills used in reading, researching, drafting, editing, composing, organizing, analyzing, documenting, proofreading, and writing in this course, as demonstrated in your portfolio, contribute to your ability to perform well in other courses or activities (think about such skills as developing critical thinking, recognizing good uses of logic and reasoning, knowing how to support claims with specific evidence, recognizing appeals to emotion-pathos- and to personal credibility-ethos, increasing awareness of audience, context, topic, purpose, author, increasing your awareness of
- Show how your portfolio items contribute towards meeting the **stated goals** of this course. See your syllabus or the *FYC Guide* for a list of these goals.

Approaches you should avoid:

- Writing one paragraph about each item in your portfolio.
- Making lots of good/bad evaluative claims about your writing with very few or no supporting examples.
- Talking about everything but the items in your portfolio.
- Writing a narrative about your ENGL1101/1102/1103 class in general.

<p>You may want to refer to portions of your course textbook, _____, the Departmental grading sheet/rubric, or the <i>FYC Guide</i> for definitions or additional evidence.</p>
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