

The Reflective Essay - Unit Guide

Writing Goals

Students will:

- Select and control figurative language by considering how connotations introduced by references or associations will affect an intended audience. (ESD Target 2.4)
- Manipulate language conventions to create particular effects in writing determined by purpose, audience, and genre (e.g. Use of complete sentences, fragments, slang, etc.). (ESD Target 2.5)

Overview

During the course of this unit you will complete several assignments designed to help you craft an effective essay that responds to the following prompt:

In "How it Feels to be Colored Me," Zora Neale Hurston uses the metaphor of a brown paper bag filled with "A first-water diamond, an empty spool, bits of broken glass, lengths of string, a key to a door long since crumbled away . . . a nail bent under the weight of things too heavy for any nail," and several other compelling objects. Some of these objects suggest specific characteristics of her past or her personality.

Taking a cue from Ms. Hurston, write a personal essay that reveals important characteristics of your personality by way of three or four carefully selected metaphors, as Ms. Hurston does.

Important Due Dates

The first draft of your reflective essay will be due on Thursday, September 16th. The final will be due on Monday, September 20th.

Evaluation

You will be evaluated based upon the essay rubric presented in class (available online) and upon your reflection (see rubric below).

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The Reflection	Student clearly articulates how goals were met in the essay by giving examples and insightful commentary.	Student articulates how goals were met, but commentary is rote and/or examples are minimal.	Students does not clearly articulate how goals were met, but discusses the paper in general terms without examples.

Point Values

Each formal essay will be worth 50 points, outline worth 5, the draft worth 15, and the reflection worth 10. Students who do not demonstrate that they have met unit or individual goals will be asked to revise and resubmit for credit.