

BOATBUILDING ANCHOR 2:

WRITING A REFLECTIVE ESSAY OF “PROJECT FLOAT ME”

A **reflective essay should** include essentially your thoughts on a subject - specifically what you have accomplished and what you have learned.

The **reflective essay** gives you an opportunity to reflect and discuss your achievements while completing the project. Your work on the project is not completed until you evaluate your work objectively in a reflective essay.

Before actually writing...collect all of your thoughts and materials that refer to the project you've just completed. Study these materials and objectively evaluate your learning experiences and final project. Be honest about the weak and strong points of your project and determine how it can be improved.

Start writing the first draft.

Describe your project. How did it contribute to your self development? Evaluate the quality of your work. Did you achieve your goals? Did your group achieve their goals? Tell how you might have made your project better. Discuss what you liked and disliked about the project. What were your favorite parts and the parts you thought needed improvement.

Revise your first draft.

Whatever your project may have involved the **reflective essay** should pay close attention to the final result: What meaning will your project have to the readers? How does your project teach those who didn't work on it? Get your reader interested by writing an introduction that would catch their attention, and conclusion that they will remember. You should also keep in mind that your paper will be rated on the quality of your writing, as well as the content and whether all the required information was included.

Write in a clear style. Show your essay to someone for helpful feedback. Change what needs to be revisited. Type, formalize, hand in.

Thank You in advance for Your Feedback!

Adapted From: http://www.privatewriting.com/reflective_essay.html

Boatbuilding Evaluation Essay

What you must do....In a thoughtful and complete essay reflect upon the successes and failures of the last 10, or so, classes in boatbuilding. The following fourteen items must be addressed in your paper and it must start with some sort of introduction and have an overall conclusion. Remember that reflecting on a project allows you to say what you want, as long as you can back it up with facts and include them in your essay. These are the questions you must include ...

PREPOND: (Hopefully!)

1. What did you initially think about building a boat out of some 80 sticks, dental floss, and a blue tarp?
2. How did the Spaghetti boat experiment assist in the basic design and building of this hull?
3. What position did you get and was it one that you wanted?
4. Would you change your position if we did this again and why?
5. Was your position what you expected initially?
6. How did your position effect your attitude and efficiency on this build?
7. Did your peers perform their jobs to their specifications?
8. During the build, would you (did you) change anything from the original design?
9. What did **you** actually do to help build the boat,? Specifics here. Exactly what were your part/parts throughout the course of this project? **Be Specific**.....Get it? List and describe.
10. What could have been differently for you to have more confidence at this stage?
11. Did you think your boat would float? Why or why not? Be specific and thorough.

POST POND: (To be completed after the boat is tested)

1. What happened? How did your boat perform? Were your initial conclusions correct? Why were you right/wrong?
2. Overall assessment of project. Would you try this again? What would you change and why?
3. How would you redesign your boat to be more successful?
4. What position would you shoot for next time and specifically why?

Boatbuilding Reflective Essay Evaluation Rubric		Your Score	My score
Student Name:			
This analytic rubric is used to verify specific tasks performed when producing an essay. If the task has been successfully completed, all points are awarded. No points are awarded if the task is not complete. Scoring Criteria			
Category			
Introduction 10 points	A title page is included with the students name, date, and class as well as a nifty picture and a "Title" for the overall project.		
	Background information is provided to establish the importance of the essay topic. Include in class build up and labs leading up to the boat. Also include some sort of explanation of the leadership set up. <i>(Examples include definitions of key terms or a short outline of a complicated concept or a history of the project.)</i>		
Report of Research 40 points	The question for each topic is well covered. <i>(Each question should be answered in a short, thoughtful paragraph that explains the concept.)</i>		
	The essay demonstrates the application and earnest appraisal of the student's ideas about the topic. <i>(Your ideas must be included.)</i>		
	Information in the essay is presented in a manner that has flow and includes well thought out connections and transitions. <i>(Any paragraphs that sound more like just a list of answers to questions will be poorly graded. This is an essay that includes the questions...not an essay that are just the answers.)</i>		
Conclusion 20 points	Student's thoughts presented in the essay are summarized. <i>(This is your chance to emphasize the point of the essay.)</i>		
	The most important particular things about the project are restated. <i>(What do you want the reader to remember?)</i>		
	No new information is introduced.		
Usage 30 points	The essay is typed using a standard 12 or 14 point font. Single Spaced. <i>(If there is any question about what standard means - ask!)</i>		
	There are few or no "first person" statements in the essay. <i>(Such as "I" and "My".)</i>		
	There are no spelling errors or visible corrections. <i>(Proof-reading is required - even with spellcheck.)</i>		
	There are no obvious grammar or punctuation errors. <i>(Such as the use of "their - there", and "to - too - two")</i>		
Score	Total Points		
Self-evaluation	Students are expected to honestly evaluate their own work. If the difference between the student evaluation and the teacher evaluation is more than 10 points, 5 points will be deducted from the teacher's score when the grade is recorded.		
Deadline	All "turn-in" assignments are expected to be completed by a certain deadline. Essays will be accepted the class after the deadline for 3/4 credit.		