

Summer 2011

To: English 304 Students
From: Allison Hitt
Date: May 31, 2011
Subject: Midterm Reflection Letter

The midterm reflection letter asks you to think about your writing process, your writing progress, and your progress in this course. In this 2-page, single-spaced letter to me, you will make some kind of thoughtful claim about your writing—in general or in this course—and explore this claim with reference to the writing collected in this portfolio.

The midterm reflection letter does three things:

1. First, by giving you the space and the time to reflect on your writing as a whole, it allows you to assess your own progress and set goals accordingly.
2. Second, by giving me a sense of how you understand your writing, it gives me ways to help you succeed in writing and in this course.
3. Finally, because this class is interested not just in your ability to write well but also in your ability to make conscious, reflective, and purposeful choices in your writing, the letter provides an avenue to explore how we talk about writing.

In class, we will do a series of brainstorming exercises designed to give you some materials to work with. Use these materials as the basis from which to work, and continue to brainstorm and invent from that point.

The reflective letter will give me a way to read the whole portfolio, and because of this, it will shape your provisional grade. It is important that your letter be honestly reflective, that it makes some kind of thoughtful claim about your writing, and that it reference your collected writing in detail and with a purpose.

The Midterm Reflection Letter is due with the Midterm Portfolio on Thursday, June 2, 2011.