Reflective Writing (Reflections)

Reflections can be made very simple if you just understand a basic point and can share that point in writing. The teacher wants to know that you have actually learned from the chapter (or lab, or case study, etc.), so it is your job to write down all the new knowledge you have learned and link it to the concepts introduced in the unit (or connect it to your knowledge as a whole). New information learned could come from notes, the text book, class-time movies, lab investigations, articles, or classroom lectures/discussions. Collectively we call these things "media", each is a medium that can deliver new information. When you write a reflection, you must put your references at the end of your paper and use in-text citations ("parantheticals") with what you have written. If you say “The art of classifying organisms is called taxonomy”, the teacher would know that information was not just an inspired thought from your own brain. So, you need to cite the exact source of that information. The cited sentence would look like this:

The art of classifying organisms is called taxonomy (1).

The reader/teacher then knows that the first resource you have referenced in your reference section is where they can look to find the source of the information you have used in that sentence/section. There are many websites that can help you to make properly formatted APA references (or other styles for subjects other than science).

Requirements:

* At approximately one page, with a separate page for references, 12pt font, (0.5-1page single-space; 0.75-1.5page double-space; by teacher preference), Times New Roman
* Writing covers and analyzes new information learned in chapter, lab, videos, article, case study, etc (any type of “media”) and adds supporting details, examples, and otherwise elaborates using previous knowledge or materials.
* New knowledge is linked back to the broad concept of the unit.
* Reflection has a good working title (not just “Reflective Writing Assignment”, but a title that describes what you are reflecting on!)
* Include Citations
* Include References

Suggestions for Formatting Your Reflection to Ensure You Include All Necessary Information:

* Paragraph 1- Background information regarding concepts from the media
  + A summary of the purpose, key concepts, claims, hypotheses and/or questions being addressed
* Paragraph 2 (or 2-3)- Present the evidence from the media the authors used to support their claim (use citations!)
  + What experimental design was used (if applicable), what data was collected as the basis for support of the claim or hypothesis
* Paragraph 3 (or 4)- Relate the information from the newly investigated media with prior knowledge or learning (use more citations!)
  + What conclusions can be drawn from the evidence presented in the media, how does it relate to topics previously explored in science class or reading (reference your textbook and any other sources your knowledge has come from!)
* Paragraph 4 (or 5 Describe possible rebuttals, contradicting or lacking evidence or controversy regarding the key concepts or evidence presented in this media (use more citations if necessary!)
  + This section may either be acknowledged by the authors in the media (which must be cited!) or desired by the reader…that’s you!
  + Does the experiment or data collected by the authors support their claim (is the view valid based on the evidence presented)? Is the evidence lacking or did the experimental design leave room for large errors? Does the evidence in this media contradict evidence from another source (cite other sources!)
* References
  + On a separate page, using APA style format. Try one of the online citation makers to help you!
  + Don’t forget to use parenthetical in text citations throughout your paper to show where you have used information from each of your references.