# **FINAL PORTFOLIO DOCUMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

## **Final Course Reflection Assignment Description**

Write a Final Course Reflection of **at least 500 words**. You might format this document as a letter, addressed to your instructor. In this piece, discuss your experience with your learning and experiences with the 6 ENGL 1010 Threshold Concepts during this semester as you completed the different assignments noted here:

* Discussions
* Notebooks
* Reflections
* Essay Drafts and Revisions

As a reminder, the Threshold Concepts for this course are:

* [RHETORIC]
* [ACTION]
* [CHOICES]
* [CONTEXT]
* [LITERATE PRACTICES & PROCESSES]
* [WRITING IS A RESOURCE]

As you are drafting your final course reflection, be sure to include a variety of examples and explanations of your writing this semester and also your work with and understanding of the Threshold Concepts. You might even draw from the Unit 1 and Unit 2 reflections as you construct your response to some of these questions, but remember to keep in mind that the primary focus should be on the final drafts and your work as a whole throughout semester. Look to make connections between the units and the various assignments as you consider your overall writing development.

FLASH NARRATIVE ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Drawing on your notebooks, discussions, and other work thus far in Unit 1 for ideas and   
inspiration, write a flash narrative in the genre of your choice (ex. romantic fiction, horror   
fiction, memoir, humorous nonfiction, etc.). Remember that your purpose is, at least in part, to   
evoke emotion by creating or re-creating an experience through words. Be detailed and use   
specific examples. Whatever your subject, be sure to include one major scene that transports   
your reader to a specific point in time. Utilize the writing techniques of sensory detail, dialogue,   
and conflict-driven action. Think about your audience and how you will connect to them. What   
main idea or theme do you want to communicate? What dominant emotion(s) do you want the   
reader to feel? How do you want your audience to react to your story?   
**Requirements**

* Flash narratives should be no longer than 1,000 words.
* Must include at least one fully executed scene that effectively employs narrative   
  techniques.
* Attend Lab Session 2 to complete your narrative invention work with one of the   
  instructors or tutors.
* Post the first draft of your flash narrative to Canvas.
* After completing your first draft, you need to complete peer reviews for two other   
  students. Points are given for peer reviews as part of the essay drafting grade.
* Attend Lab Session 4 with a tutor or instructor to discuss the first draft of your flash   
  narrative.
* Make revisions based on your consultation.
* Revise your flash narrative to include in your final portfolio at the end of the semester.

## **Rhetorical Analysis Assignment Description**

Write a 1000-1500-word essay in which you analyze and evaluate the overall effectiveness of an essay (Essay Options were provided in Canvas by your instructor). As you work towards completing a draft where, as a writer, you will need to adhere to the conventions of this particular genre and often consider rhetorical strategies from both the perspective of the author and intended audience, keep in mind four of the Threshold Concepts that apply to this assignment are: [RHETORIC], [ACTION], [CONTEXT], and [CHOICES].

### **Structure of the Essay**

* 1000-1500 words
* A paragraph that establishes the context of the text. (When was it written? By whom? Who is the author? What information about the author is significant? Who is the intended audience? Where was it published? What is the larger conversation?)
* An objective summary of the text that uses attributive tags in every sentence (about 100-150 words).
* A thesis statement THAT IS FOCUSED ON THE TEXT ITSELF AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS FOR ITS AUDIENCE (the thesis should be about the TEXT, not about the subject/issue of the text and not a restatement of the author’s text. HINT: your thesis should include the name of the author of the text you are analyzing and make some claim about how effective the text is for the intended audience.)
* Several main points of rhetorical analysis. Think about how the text uses logos, pathos, ethos, or other rhetorical strategies—you might cover each rhetorical appeal or you might focus on one particular rhetorical theme. Think about how the text is organized. Think about the type of language used. Think about the tone and voice used. Think about the main claim of the text. Think about the kind of evidence that is used.

## **Viewpoint Synthesis Assignment Description**

Synthesis means “putting together.” In this Viewpoint Synthesis essay, you will flesh out your own view on your chosen issue in the context of what you have discovered about other perspectives through your research.

This assignment is **not** a researched argument essay or an objective report; rather, it is a brief overview of the wider social conversation surrounding the issue you have chosen to study, including how your perspective fits into it. You will lay out for readers three significant perspectives/ways of thought and belief about your research issue. Then, you will share with us your opinion, comprising the fourth and final viewpoint. All your work in Unit 3 is designed to help you with this task.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. 1000-1250 words (4-5 pages).
2. Identify and explain three different viewpoints within the debate of your chosen issue using sources to objectively explain each viewpoint. **Remember** that one source does not a viewpoint make, so you will need at least two sources as supporting evidence for each viewpoint you discuss.
   1. Note that many topics will have *more* than three camps of thought surrounding a given issue of debate. You only need to make yourself responsible for representing what you think are the three most prevalent perspectives.
   2. Each viewpoint will have a claim and supporting evidence (from your research journal and additional research.) Really, you are writing 4 short (1-page)   
      position summary papers, each with a claim and supporting reasons.
3. Your conclusion for the viewpoint synthesis paper will be your own view of the issue. Carefully contextualize your views with and against the research you have found, demonstrating your critical understanding of where the tension lies between viewpoints. This can either be one long paragraph or broken into two separate paragraphs.
   1. Use your rhetorical analysis of these sources from your research journal and the debate itself to make an argument about credibility of the sources.
   2. Use attributive tags (As Johnson argues . . . **OR** In contrast to Johnson . . .) to help situate your view amongst your sources.

# **GUIDELINES:**

# As you write your Viewpoint Synthesis Essay, consider the following guidelines:

1. Remember that this is a new paper, not just your research journals copied and pasted into a new document. While you may use some of the passages and language from your research journal entries, the viewpoint synthesis is a different paper that is meant to show us the range of positions on the issue as well as the position you take and your reasons/evidence for this position.
   1. You will need to include at least two sources as supporting evidence for each viewpoint you discuss. If you’re being asked to write three viewpoints, that means at least six sources should be represented within the body of your essay and documented on a list of sources at the end of the essay.
   2. This means that you’ll be using two more sources on top of the four sources which you will write about in your research journal work on Canvas.
2. Finding an organization that shows the complexity of the issue is part of the learning task for this paper. Do not just transfer your annotations directly from your journal into this paper; think, instead, about grouping them to show similarities and differences in various positions, demonstrating your understanding of where the tension lies between viewpoints.
3. The analysis you did in the research journal does not show up in this paper as such. You   
   may certainly point out flaws in arguments, and you can indicate you think a source is   
   very credible in the way you introduce it. For example, you might say, "Noted   
   psychologist and professor at Harvard University, John Bramble, argues that . . ."
4. Rely on paraphrasing and quote sparingly, but ALWAYS signal to the reader when you are summarizing someone’s viewpoint. To avoid “armadillo roadkill,” direct quotes ALWAYS require attributive tags (Johnson notes, “Blah blah blah . . .”)
5. Remember that while the viewpoint synthesis paper is meant to demonstrate that you understand some of the viewpoints of your issue, it is also meant to give you the chance for you to "put in your oar" as Graff and Birkinstein say and share your own position on the issue. Do everything in your power to be credible and persuasive in giving your reasons for your position. Make sure to include evidence that adds to your ethos and logos.

# **ORGANIZATION:**

You must show at least three viewpoints, plus your own informed viewpoint about your issue.

**SAMPLE ESSAY OUTLINE:**

**Introduction**: Give context and explain the issue.

**synTHESIS statement**: Summarize the three different points of view surrounding your research issue.

**View One**: Explain the position with supporting evidence. One source isn’t enough evidence.   
Look for multiple sources to summarize the perspective.

**View Two**: Explain and support with a variety of evidence. (Ask your instructor if personal   
interviews are appropriate sources!)

**View Three**: Explain and support with a variety of evidence.

**Conclusion**: Your view. Explain your perspective on the issue in relationship to other views   
and sources.

**Final List of Sources**: This is where you list all the sources you have quoted or paraphrased in your paper. Remember that you will need in-text citations that work with your final list of sources **and** that the final list of sources should be on its own page at the end of the text.

* **Note:** If you’re using **MLA style** to format the viewpoint synthesis essay, this page will be called a Works Cited. If you are using **APA style** to format the essay, this page will be called a References page.

## **RESEARCH JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION**

Your Research Journal is a record of your research process as you’ve formulated your research question. You should have 6 total entries, comprised of the sources you submitted with Notebook #10 and Notebook #11.

Two of the Threshold Concepts that apply particularly well to the Research Journal assignment are: [LITERATE PRACTICES & PROCESSES], and [WRITING IS A RESOURCE].

### **Structure of the Research Journal**

Each of your 6 journal entries should include:

* MLA or APA citation
* SUMMARY of the source: 1 paragraph.  Include attributive tags or parenthetical notations in EVERY sentence. Proper attribution will help you avoid plagiarism AND smoothly integrate your sources into your Viewpoint Synthesis.
* ANALYSIS of the source: 1 paragraph. How credible is the source? Consider the writer's credibility, the credibility of the publication where you found the source, and how the source was written. Is the source intended for a particular audience, and would that audience grant the source more or less credibility than you do yourself?
* RESPONSE to the source: 1 paragraph. Your response should address several of these questions:
  + How does this source influence your search for a quality research question?
  + What surprised you about this source?
  + Are you seeing different perspectives on an issue you might want to make the focus of your question?
  + Have your views changed at all? How?
  + What do you need to research next? Where will you look for that research?