

Self-Reflection Project

Identity Unit

You have heard me say on multiple occasions that art, and therefore literature, is both a window and a mirror. It is a window into someone else's world—a different time, a different place, or an entirely different experience. However, just as importantly, art serves as a mirror for us to view ourselves—to see how we can relate to characters or ideas, or how we can grow from them. Art can help us to reflect on our positive qualities and the things that we value, as well as our less positive traits, too, as we might discover less-than-ideal things about ourselves, too.

In the Identity Unit, you have read a variety of texts in a variety of genres, all of which deal in some way with how we come to see and define ourselves and our roles in society. The goal of this project is for you to use these texts as a collection of mirrors to view and reflect on yourself—who you are, how you see yourself, what you value, and how you connect to the world around you.

For this project, you will use the format of the class Weebly website texts page to help you select the texts that you are going to reflect upon. Under the “Main Texts” section, choose one text from the first row of texts, and then choose one text from the second row. Next, choose one poem from the “Poetry” section, and finally choose one essay from the “Psychology, etc.” section. This means that you will work with **four** separate texts for this project. A point of clarification: you will not use “The Road Not Taken” poem, as it is the only text in that row, and every other row or unit subsection provides a choice of texts.

For each text that you have selected, you are going to reflect and explain how you can connect in some way to that text. You can choose to show how you relate to characters (positively or negatively), to ideas, and to experiences. You are required to use direct quotes from each text that most show the things in the text that you feel to which you can connect or relate.

The essay will begin with an introduction paragraph with an effective thesis. Each text will get its own body paragraph for you to explore and explain the ways you connect to that text, and each body paragraph must begin with an effective topic sentence. The body paragraphs must include one or more quotes from the text, as well as correct parenthetical citations, and your explanation of how you relate is most critical to the paragraph. Finally, you will end on a conclusion paragraph that contains another effective thesis. As always, the essay needs to be double-spaced in a standard font, sized 11 or 12, with standard margins, etc. However, unlike most other essays, you **will** need first person in this essay.

Rubric

Introduction

- Present, effective and includes effective thesis (5 pts)
- Present with flawed thesis (4 pts)
- Present with no thesis (3 pts)

Body Paragraph

Topic sentence

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focused on details (1 pt)

Support

- Thorough; personal connection; good use of quotes; well explained (10 pts)
- Ample; personal connection; adequate explanation (8 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; surface-level connection (7 pts)
- Underdeveloped; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (6 pts)
- Off topic (5 pts)

Conclusion

- Present, effective and includes effective thesis (5 pts)
- Present with flawed thesis (4 pts)
- Present with no thesis (3 pts)

Citations

- All quotes cited and handled correctly (5 pts)
- Minor errors (4 pts)
- Major errors (3 pts)

Format

- Font, font size, margins and paragraphing all correct (3 pts)
- Minor issue in font, font size, margins and paragraphing (2 pts)
- Major issues in font size, margins and paragraphing (1 pt)

Intro _____

BP 1 TS _____

BP 1 Spt _____

BP 2 TS _____

BP 2 Spt _____

BP 3 TS _____

BP 3 Spt _____

BP 4 TS _____

BP 4 Spt _____

Concl _____

Cit _____

Frmt _____

Total _____/70