

Every time I've ever had to do an essay for any English class, I have always known what the topic was and what I was supposed to do, but when I have nothing else to say, I get lost. So I guess what I'm trying to say is that my strengths are following directions, taking suggestions when they are given, and doing what is supposed to be done, but sometimes the weaknesses get the better of me. I think I've always given myself less credit than I actually deserve and haven't had confidence in any of the work I've turned in over the years, and that's been my biggest downfall. Slowly but surely, I want to change this, but it's obviously going to take some time. Being in English 114A has taught me many things about what I need to know, not only in English, but in life as well, and I will forever be grateful for Professor Filbeck and will use the tools she has taught me.

To me, English 114A was more than just an English class. I have learned from the feedback of my teacher and my classmates. This class has not only improved my writing and made me step out of my comfort zone, but has also taught me to be curious about everything. Little things, like asking questions and participating in class more often than I used to, have made me see that writing doesn't have to be scary or boring, you can make it yours, and even if it's not the best at first, you can always change it and make it better.

In high school, all my essays were about books or poems. This year, my perspective has completely changed because I don't view English as a one-sided subject anymore, and that has allowed me to focus and be more creative when I write. Having this freedom has made me excited for English 114B and everything it will have to offer.

The Reflective Portfolio Preface

What it is:

The Portfolio Preface is a reflective piece that looks back on the work you have done during your semester in Freshman Composition. It is the first thing your portfolio readers will read, so it should serve as an introduction to your work. It will be your chance to make a first impression on your readers, your audience. Throughout the semester, we have discussed entering the academic conversation and now is your opportunity to truly do so. You will compose a piece of reflective writing that presents your essays and your thoughts on writing to your reader. Additionally, your reflective assignment will require you to reflect upon your writing in this class and what you have learned and gained as a writer, reader, and thinker. Show them how these two pieces of writing are representative of you, the writer.

What it should do:

Your preface should introduce your essays to your readers, and some of the following points:

- Define good writing (what does it include)
- explain how English 113 has influenced your writing
- discuss your development as a writer over the course of the semester
- discuss what invaluable skills you have learned in class. Do not just state them, explain them.
- explain what revisions you made to your papers and why
- discuss what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of your writing, as reflected in your portfolio. You can refer to the essays more specifically if you'd like.

What it should look like:

For this assignment, the audience and purpose are set, but the genre is up to you. You may wish to simply write a letter to your readers, or you may wish to be more creative and write your reflection in the form of a comic strip, a poem, or any other written format that you like. Your preface should be single-spaced 1 to 2 pages. MLA format is not required, since the format should be appropriate for the genre. Do consider what kind of ethos you want to establish for yourself. How do you want to come across to your readers? We have learned about rhetorical impact, so now is your chance to use it.

BE SURE TO PROOFREAD. SERIOUSLY.

At the beginning of the semester, I thought that I was a decent writer but I soon realized that my writing had a few more flaws than I realized. For example, I used to start an essay with a quote that didn't have much to do with my argument, and I see how that can be very misleading and ineffective. But as

help the reader get a better understanding of the writer's position. I also learned that imagery is a very important part of writing because it can that, in order to be an effective writer, I have to analyze what others have said. maybe they had some good points but I only cared about mine. I've realized this class, I never really cared about or gave credit to what others had to say; As a writer and thinker, I've progressed a lot because, before I got to give your essay coherence.

argue your position more effectively, but it also gives you a better structure to position and it becomes an ongoing conversation. Not only does it help you one else's position while stating yours; then someone else will respond to your conversation. I find this very interesting because you are responding to some- *They Say, I Say* method, you approach your writing as if you were entering a lies and values in order to establish credibility and appear unbiased. With the It is also important to provide facts, data, and respect for the audience's be- the writer must be aware of who the audience is and what they already know. stand things from another's perspective. In order to write an effective piece, then state your position. It's important to be able to identify with and under- book, *They Say, I Say*. You must first acknowledge what others have said and One very important tool to become a better writer is explained in the

the right tools, it will be a breeze. towards any goal may be difficult at first, but as soon as you learn to use summaries, rants, and plagiarism, along with many others. Being able to prog- credibility are just a few. Also, the vines that I should avoid are hit and runs, through, intact. Stance, coherence, thesis, evidence, counter-arguments, and many of the essential vines I need to use in order to successfully make my way Throughout my journey through the writing jungle, I have learned

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Instructor: Nina Ahn

JOCELYN OROZCO

...you approach your writing as if you were entering a conversation.