

Best Work Reflection Essay

Directions: Each Best Work needs to include an introduction, an analysis of your learning, and a reflection piece that explains your educational experiences here at Auburn High School. The first paragraph **INTRODUCES** the project to the viewer; the second explains **WHAT** you learned including the EALR's, while the third paragraph describes **WHY** you selected the work to share and what you would change about it. These paragraphs need to be typed and saved to your portfolio folder so they can be included in your final presentation portfolio.

Paragraph One: Introduction

In a brief (4-5 sentences) paragraph introduce your Best Work:

- Explain what the best work is
- When it was done
- Which class it happened in and who your teacher was

Paragraph Two: Analysis of Learning (at least 8 sentences, you will probably have more by adding extra commentaries)

Use the following questions to guide you as you write your Analysis of Learning paragraph.

- What did I learn as a result of this assignment/project?
 - Explain this by selecting the Essential Learnings that are demonstrated within the work. (CD)
 - Justify how your work demonstrates those Essential Learnings (CM). Give at least two specific examples or reasons of how your project shows that you learned these skills.

Paragraph Three: Reflections (at least 8 sentences, probably more)

In this paragraph the reader should hear your voice come through and you should show your personality in your writing. This is your chance to explain why you included this Best Work in your portfolio. Use the following questions to guide you (you don't have to answer all of them!) as you write the third paragraph; you should write two sentences for each question:

- Why did I select this Best Work for my portfolio?
- What do I like about this Best Work? Dislike?
- What would I do differently if I had another opportunity to complete this assignment?
- What does this Best Work communicate about me?
- How does this Best Work prepare me for my life after high school?



* Chunk Writing Terms:

- TS** Topic Sentence--states the main idea of the paragraph
CD Concrete Details—facts, examples, proof
CM Commentaries—statements that explain and give the importance of the Concrete Details
CS Conclusion Sentence—wraps up the paragraph or transitions into the next paragraph

Reflection Essay Example

This Best Work is an example of my finest effort in my United States History class. This is a personal history essay that was assigned as a term project. I was asked to interview an elder in our community and compose a narrative essay of their life. During the project I worked with Steve Nakimoto and I wrote my essay about his life. The class compositions were then collected compiled in a book which was shared with the community. I completed this project in the spring of 2002 during my junior year in Mrs. Smith's history class.

I learned many things during the course of this personal history project. First, this best work demonstrates History 1.3. in the E.A.L.R.'s because the essay discusses the contributions Mr. Nakimoto and other Japanese people have made to our society. By interviewing Mr. Nakimoto (the owner of a local printing business) I learned how immigrants to this region bring with them ideas, religions, and customs that shape our current community. Second, this essay shows that I can write effectively in many different forms and follow the writing process. There are several Writing Essential Learnings demonstrated in this best work and they include: Writing 1.1 (student maintains sharp focus), Writing 1.2 (student writes in a variety of forms), and Writing 1.3 (student used standard writing conventions). Finally, according to the Essential Learnings I had to use communication skills to complete this project. These skills are: Communication 2.2 (develop content and ideas), Communication 2.3 (use effective delivery), and Communication 3.1 (use language to interact effectively and responsibly with others). In order to complete the project I wrote a series of interview questions and then arranged a time to meet with Mr. Nakimoto. By doing these tasks I learned that communication is a key aspect in history and I had to use good communication skills to gather the information. As you can see, I learned many important skills by completing this assignment.

There are many reasons why I chose this best work to be part of my portfolio. First, this is a good example of my writing. This essay was clear, easy to read, and I was able to write an interesting account of Mr. Nakimoto's life. Second, I really put a tremendous amount of effort into this assignment because I didn't want to let Mrs. Smith or Mr. Nakimoto down by doing a shabby job. Mr. Nakimoto took so much time out of his busy schedule to tell me about his life, family, and business I wanted to share that with other people. Finally, if I had to do this project again I would schedule more time for the interview. I know my narrative essay would have been much more complete had I had the chance to talk for a longer period of time with Mr. Nakimoto. This project helped prepare me for my future career in broadcasting because it emphasized the importance of communication and writing skills. I feel that this project helped me to communicate more effectively both in words and with writing. Overall, I am proud of this work and it really shows how well I can do in History, English, and Communications.

Best Work Essay Outline

Outline: This is a basic outline for your Best Work paragraphs. It is a suggested format; feel free to add to it or change it around. Remember the first paragraph needs 4-5 sentences while paragraphs 2 & 3 need *at least* eight.

Paragraph One: Introduction:

TS: _____

CD: (explain what the Best Work is) _____

CD: (explain when it was done) _____

CD: (explain which class it happened in and who your teacher was) _____

Paragraph Two: Demonstration of Learning

TS: _____

CD: (Identify Essential Learning) _____

CM: (Explain how your work shows mastery of that Essential Learning) _____

CM: _____

CD: _____

CM: _____

CM: _____

Add another CD, CM, CM if there are other Essential Learnings met by your Best Work.

CD: _____

CM: _____

CM: _____

CS: _____

Paragraph Three: Reflections

TS: _____

(Why did I select this Best Work for my portfolio?) _____

(What do I like and dislike about this Best Work?) _____

(What does this Best Work say about me?) _____

(What would I do differently if I had another opportunity to complete this assignment?)

(How does this Best Work prepare me for life after high school?): _____

CS: _____
