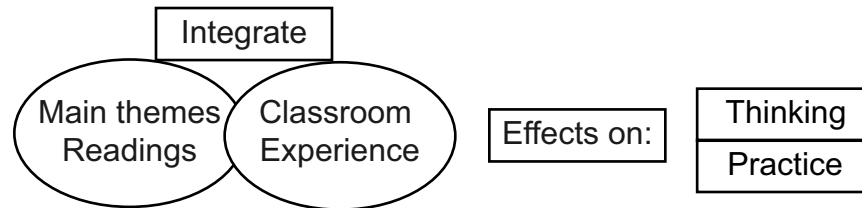


IIRP Tips on Writing Reflection Papers

A reflection paper is not a summary of the course readings or a stream of conscious mind dump on paper.



1. As the diagram suggests, a reflection paper is your identification of the main themes of the readings integrated with your classroom experience and how both affect your thinking and practice.
2. A reflection paper is your chance to add your thoughts and analysis to what you have read and experienced.
3. A reflection paper is meant to illustrate your understanding of the material and how it affects your ideas and possible practice in future.
4. Begin by jotting down some of the reading material and class experiences that stand out in your mind. Decide why they stand out to you.
5. It may be helpful to use the restorative questions to generate some of your thoughts and feelings about the course experience.
6. Using the first person singular (“I”), relate the readings and classes to your previous knowledge and experience.
7. Consider if and how what you have read and learned changes your thinking and might affect your practice in both personal and professional situations.
8. Review the readings and class notes to be sure you’ve included all the relevant information you can and made all the connections you can.
9. Give your reflection paper structure with an opening paragraph, main body, and conclusion.
10. It may be helpful to write the body of the paper first by using Steps 4-7, and then decide what your opening paragraph should say. The opening paragraph may be brief, only a sentence or two, but it should offer some overall statement of your perspective based on what you’ve learned (e.g., Before I read the articles for YC/ED 501, I had never considered that I was an authoritative supervisor, that is, someone who gives my staff firm direction but little support.). Then you could go on to describe which readings or class experiences affected your thinking and why. You could disagree with some of the readings or ideas. The conclusion of

your reflection may also be brief (e.g., I realize that I must learn how to be more supportive to get the best from my staff.). Or it could be uncertain (e.g., I don't agree with everything I learned but I am going to consider using some of the practices in future to see if they change my office environment.).

11. Include in-text references and a reference page for any materials you cite using APA citation formatting.