

## THE REFLECTION PAPER

Reflection is the fire in which real learning is forged. If we don't think closely and critically about our practice in anything we do—ranging from basketball to playing piano—our growth tends to happen at a snail's pace. On the other hand, when we reflect on how we are changing, our growth tends to be turbo-charged.

With that in mind, throughout the semester you will be given many moments to track and reflect on your growth. These observations and reflections will turn into the final assignment of the year, which is a thoughtful two-to-three-page paper where you examine where your writing started this semester, how you grew as a writer over the semester, and where you need to go next now that your semester is over.

This paper will be graded largely on the following:

### How Specific It Is

I will be looking for specific details, stories, and examples. This means instead of saying something like, "I learned to have smoother writing," I will expect you to say something like, "I realized in my first paper that I used the same kind of sentence

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over and over, which made my writing feel repetitive. Having more varied sentence types was my key goal for much of the first two papers, and by the third paper, my sentence variety had gone from a problem to a strength!"

### How Deep It Is

I will also be looking for you to fully explain each point you made. This means that instead of just saying your word choice is better, you will explain how you accomplished that. Did you pay closer attention to the sounds of your words or give it an extra read during revision for places to add playful or unusual wording?

### How Accurate It Is

The last big thing I will be assessing this paper on is its accuracy. Do you have a good sense of the actual successes you had, struggles you went through, focus areas you grew in, and spots where you still need to improve?

**FIGURE 3.10 • The Reflection Paper**