Reflecting Essay: Understanding Your Growth as a Writer

**Instructions**

Educated people always reflect on their lives to make them better. By reflecting on what you have done in this course, you will improve your success as a writer by learning what helps you write better, so that you can continue those trends, and by learning what hinders your success as a writer so that you can avoid those pitfalls. You can consider this paper to be an accumulation of ideas you have learned in this course as the following illustrates. For example, you are remembering what has occurred in the course to better understand your progression as a writer, and you are investigating all that has occurred in the course to understand what helps and hinders your progression as a writer.

For this assignment, you are going to reflect over your semester in this course, and you will write a reflective paper that does all of the following:

* Explain one strength of your writing. Use specific examples from your writings.
* Explain one improvement you have made to your writing, and explain how you made that improvement. Use specific examples from your writings.
* Explain two weaknesses of writing that you still have and how you plan on improving them after this course.

**Goals for this assignment**

* Understand your growth as a writer
* Realize your academic growth considering the objectives of the course
* Become adept at choosing what information is necessary to include in a piece of writing in order to get one’s point across
* Become more detail oriented in writing
* Reinforce the foundations of writing: purpose, audience, writer, and qualities of good writing
* Practice the recursive stages of writing: prewriting, writing, responding, revising, and editing

**Audience for this assignment**

You audience for this essay will be your instructor.

**Length and format for this assignment**

The paper will be 3 - 4, double-spaced, typed pages of text following either MLA or APA format. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing* gives an example of MLA format on pp. 468 – 476, and an example of APA format is on pp. 509 – 519. Keep in mind that your font must be Times New Roman, and it can be no larger than 12 font size.

**Checklist for turning in the final project**

Below is a checklist of ALL THE ITEMS that must be included with the final project.

1. \_\_\_\_\_First draft sent to Canvas.

2. \_\_\_\_ final complete draft (3 – 4 pages of text, not including a title page if you are

 using APA format)

3. \_\_\_\_ electronic copies of both drafts should be sent to Canvas

**IMPORTANT: If any of the above is missing, your instructor does not have to**

 **grade the project, and at the least, the project will lose points**

 **for any missing items.**