

Reflective Essay Review Guide

UMB Center for Global Engagement and UMB Writing Center

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(this can be used by peers or faculty members)

1. What do you think this draft does well? Any strategies you are thinking of using in your own revision?

Explain:

2. Does the essay discuss “past selves”—ways the writer thought and believed and practiced prior to their overseas experience—as a way of understanding their current self as a person, student, and practitioner (Yancey, 1999)?

Yes No Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check “yes,” be sure to explain why. If you check “no” or “unsure/sort of,” be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

3. How about the essay’s **critical approach**? List key questions and themes this writer addresses:

4. Does the writer admit what they don’t know, question their own assumptions, and attempt to clarify for readers the meaning of the overseas experience?

Yes No Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check “yes,” be sure to explain why. If you check “no” or “unsure/sort of,” be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

5. Does the essay describe **the significance** of particular problems that emerged around these assumptions and/or biases? *NOTE: “Problems” refers to complications, contradictions, and paradoxes that the writer discovered in their thinking and action—and the potential or actual emotional, social, and professional impact on the people and communities with whom they worked overseas.*

Yes No Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check “yes,” be sure to explain why. If you check “no” or “unsure/sort of,” be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

6. How well does the writer *translate* their host cultures, people, and communities? How well does the writer characterize and, therefore, represent the people, places, and communities with whom they worked? How well does the writer characterize or represent themselves? *NOTE: comment on the fairness and accuracy of the writer's representations.*

7. Do the body sections of the essay offer accurate, carefully chosen, and vividly descriptive details of events, people, and artifacts to help illustrate tension, concern, and close attention?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check "yes," be sure to explain why. If you check "no" or "unsure/sort of," be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

8. Does the essay employ the strategies associated with narrative or storytelling—e.g., character development, sequence of events, dialogue, metaphor, etc.

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check "yes," be sure to explain why. If you check "no" or "unsure/sort of," be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

9. Does the essay *explain* and *interpret* the narrative events, drawing conclusions and discussing the significance of these events to the writer's claims about what they have learned from the overseas experience?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check "yes," be sure to explain why. If you check "no" or "unsure/sort of," be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

10. Is any moment in this essay "**stuck in like**" (Yancey, 1999)?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check "yes," be sure to explain why. If you check "no" or "unsure/sort of," be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

11. Does the essay draw on UMB classroom, clinical, professional—and personal—learning to illustrate, analyze, and interpret the overseas experience?

Yes No Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check “yes,” be sure to explain why. If you check “no” or “unsure/sort of,” be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

12. Does the essay explain **specific strategies** the writer developed and continues to develop for addressing gaps in their understanding of their overseas experience?

Yes No Unsure/Sort of

Comments (If you check “yes,” be sure to explain why. If you check “no” or “unsure/sort of,” be sure to offer explanation of why not and specific tips for improvement):

13. If this were your own draft, what would be your revision goals?

14. What is the most important thing for this writer to considering as they revise?