Reflective Letter Prompt

The reflective letter is the introduction to your Willamette Promise WR121/122 portfolio. The reflective letter is a “letter” addressed to the reader of your portfolio--your classroom teacher--in which you take ownership of what you're learning and how you've grown as a writer over the course of our class together. To do this, you'll need to review the work you’ve done over the term, paying particular attention to the pieces in your finished portfolio, the informal reflections we’ve written together already, and changes you’ve observed in your pre/post surveys. All this material should help you explain and reflect on your writing abilities.

In particular, your letter should highlight two types of knowledge: self knowledge and writing knowledge. Let’s start with a quick definition of each:

- **Self Knowledge**: This is your knowledge of how you are developing as a writer--your identity as a writer. Think about where you began at the start of our class and where you are now. You might take into account your strengths and weaknesses as a writer and reflect on your pre/post surveys.

- **Writing Knowledge**: This is your knowledge about how we express our ideas clearly in writing, including concepts of audience, purpose, the role of source material, the research process, drafting, etc. Take a look at the course learning outcomes to help you here.

As you write about your knowledge in these two areas, it’s important that you are honest. No one expects you to be a perfect writer from this one course. No one is a perfect writer no matter how long they have been writing. We all have writing strengths and weaknesses, things we struggle with, goals we have for future growth. I am much more interested in your thoughtful, genuine reflection on what you’ve learned about yourself as a writer than flattering me as a teacher.

**Content & Support**

Providing specific, detailed support for your letter is very important. You should use your own writing as evidence, which means you should directly quote the other texts in your portfolio and other classroom activities you’ve done. For example, if you learned that part of a good research process involves the evolution of your thesis statement, then you should be able to point to how and where your reader can see this.

Your letter should not, however, be a chronological narrative describing the process of putting the portfolio together from start to finish. I already know that. Reflection is much deeper; it involves you focusing on your learning and your growth as a writer.
**Length & Placement**

The final reflection should be a minimum of 4 pages (or your portfolio will not qualify as passing) and no more than 6 pages and be the first document that appears in your portfolio.

**Style**

Since you are writing about your own learning, it is appropriate for you to use the first person. In addition, your reflection should be:

- Typed and double-spaced
- Use size 12 Times New Roman font
- Follow MLA guidelines for in-text citations

*Need Help Getting Started? Don’t worry! We’ll do plenty of brainstorming activities to help you generate content for this letter.*