



## PEF Summer, *At Home Edition* – Lesson Plan

Class: Graduate Defense Short Course	Grade Band: 12th Grade
Teacher: Stotlar	Lesson: Part 3: Writing the Reflection Essay
Objectives: Complete the reflective essay	Materials: completed reflection worksheets

Process:

### **Graduate Defense Essay Prompt**

**TOPIC:** Your essay is your description of YOUR JOURNEY as a learner. How have you changed and developed since you began 9th grade? How do the projects you have chosen reflect that growth and development? Write a 2 1/2 to 3 page essay on your growth and development as a learner during your high school years. You want to look at your accomplishments, how you learn, and what you still need to do to keep learning and growing beyond high school.

**BEFORE YOU WRITE:** Make sure that you have completed all of the Artifact Reflection sheets. Doing that work will help you pass the essay portion.

**ESSENTIAL:** You **MUST** talk about how you have changed, and how you will be using the **COLLABORATIVE, CREATIVE, and RESEARCH/ESSAY** skills you have developed **LATER** in life. Draw a direct line from your projects to your learning and how you might use those skills later.

**Writing the Essay:** (Make sure to look at the rubric)

**First paragraph:** Discuss your growth/development in general. Think **BIG PICTURE**. You have a lot going for you -- don't sell yourself short. Brag.

- Use the "Growths and Improvements" sections of your reflection worksheets.

**Body Paragraphs:** Describe your artifacts, which skills they've helped you develop, and how those skills might help you later.

- Start with content, context and competency (from the worksheets)
- Describe the connections
- End with leadership, growth and improvements (this connects back with the first paragraph)

Conclusion: Think about how you can apply the knowledge and skills that you've developed in a career or college. Write about your future goals. How will these skills help you? Why do you need to know how to do these things? What kind of a life do you have planned for yourself? Close with a *feeling* of saying goodbye to high school, Marshall, the young learner that you used to be. What advice would you give your 9th grade self?

### 7 tips for proofreading your own writing

1. First off, take a break before **proofreading**. ...
2. Read it aloud. ...
3. Read it bottom-to-top, instead of top-to-bottom. ...
4. Print it out. ...
5. Watch out for common mistakes. ...
6. Remove the passive voice. ...
  - a. Active voice examples: The dog barked at the man. The man attacked. We spent \$1,000 on Twitter advertising.
  - b. Passive voice examples: The man was barked at by the dog (object, verb, subject). The attack was brought forth by the man (verb, subject). Spending \$1,000 on Twitter was our idea (verb, object, subject).
7. Use the simplest word possible.
  - a. This has the opposite effect. The simpler the words you can use to make a point, the better, as that increases clarity.

Original Content by Sara Scribner, Marshall Fundamental

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## PEF Summer, *At Home Edition* – Lesson Plan

Class: Graduate Defense Short Course	Grade Band: 12th Grade
Teacher: Stotlar	Lesson: Part 4: Creating a Slide Presentation
Objectives: Complete the slides presentation that goes with the essay	Materials: Reflection Worksheets and essay

Process:

### **Your Defense Presentation**

Each presentation should reflect your unique personality, skills, and accomplishments. You do need to have a specific structure.

Planning:

Your presentation should be 10 minutes long which means you will need enough slides to make it interesting but not so many that the audience can't examine each slide. On average you should have between 8 and 12 slides. Consider drawing squares, one to represent each slide. What format do you want to use? What fonts?

Organization:

1. The first square is your opening slide with name, title, date, etc.
2. Introduce yourself - hobbies, interests, age, history at Marshall, clubs
  - a. Consider including pictures
  - b. 1 or 2 slides
3. What artifacts are you using?
4. Artifacts (#1-3)
  - a. Content, content and competency - describe your artifact
  - b. Show your artifact - either a picture or selection/quotes
  - c. Explain your growth or mastery
  - d. 2-3 slides for each artifact
5. Where are you going? What are your plans?
6. Closing/Thank you

Format:

Use at least 24-point type of a clear easy to read font.

Do not use a photocopy.

Summarize your main points.

Use your slides to show, keep written words to a minimum.

Use graphics sparingly and clearly.

Look at samples. :

- a. [https://pasadena.learning.powerschool.com/scribner.sara/marshallgrads20201/cms\\_page/view/40280699](https://pasadena.learning.powerschool.com/scribner.sara/marshallgrads20201/cms_page/view/40280699)
- b. <https://24slides.com/presentbetter/good-presentations-vs-bad-presentations/#:~:text=The%20presentation%20might%20focus%20too,relate%20them%20to%20the%20topic.>

Hints:

1. Use one or two fonts only through your presentation.
2. Don't use black or dark slides.
3. Choose a theme and connect your graphics to it.
4. Tell a story in your slides
5. Balance images and text
6. Less is more, simple is good

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