

**REFLECTIVE ESSAY Turned ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT & CHECKLIST**  
*See the NFSB evaluation breakdown for the descriptors of work from 1-5, F-A, or 0-100%*

In a reflective essay, the writer reflects on a topic, with the focus on the big ideas / values / beliefs / issues / experiences in life. Usually the essayist will use a formal tone to explore this issue, but with 1<sup>st</sup> person “I” or “We” as a POV. The essayist wants to explore the issue / experience / idea from many angles before finally declaring a resolution, having an epiphany or realization. This type of paper is designed to get readers to think about the bigger ideas in life and our place in society, and in particular, how music helps to shape us; social commentary music in particular gets us to reflect on our experiences in a ways that hit us to the core. So this type of article is both about the power of that kind of music and you reflecting on your own experience with such a song. So, you, the writer must try to engage the reader with examples which illustrate your point but which can also be relatable to the reader and their experiences.

**PROCESS**

1. Brainstorm a list of songs that are personally meaningful to you over the course of your life.
2. Choose one and listen to it over and over tracking you emotional, physical, and intellectual response on the aesthetigram.
3. Look over your aesthetigram and make notes on each part you circled, what experiences, thoughts, ideas were going through your mind? Write them down.
4. Plan the outline for your essay, using the template and model.
5. Draft the essay.
6. Get the essay peer-reviewed AND add in notes for revisions and your headline ideas and rhetorical devices
7. Format the essay to look like an article – cut up your essay paragraphs into shorter chunks, revise content and add in rhetorical devices, and a catchy headline and subhead.
8. Peer review the article and make obvious notes on draft for revision AND label all the techniques and devices you used
9. Produce the good copy

**READING Competency Criteria /2 (total \_\_\_\_\_%)**

- You have chosen a song which is social commentary (because it holds significance to you) and developed this concept through your exploration of your personal relationship with the song
  - The topic is broad, has universal appeal, and is well explored – with a focus on ideas, experiences and/or qualities which are purposefully selected for reflection and about shared experience
  - You have brought in examples from your life, life in general, the news, human nature, etc to help the audience relate to your paper
  - You have examined / analyzed **at least one (1) technique** of the writing that sticks with you and said why
  - You have used **at least 3 references** to the song – by quotations and by meaning
- \_\_\_ MLA citation guidelines are followed (-1% per infraction, even if it's the same mistake over and over)

*Is the CONTENT of your article well-developed and supported?*

**TALK Competency Criteria /2 (total \_\_\_\_\_%)**

- Use of rhetorical devices: repetition, syntax variation, hyperbole, aside. Identify these **4 specific rhetorical devices/techniques** on your RD article
- Use of rhetorical strategies to build rapport with the reader: your credibility with the song, pathos, emotional appeals, anecdote, example, allusion, addressing the reader directly, questions, analogy, famous quotations. Identify **at least 4 different strategies** used on your RD article
- Use of aesthetic qualities of spoken language: alliteration, onomatopoeia, consonance, word play. **Identify 4 specific qualities** on your RD article
- You show a distinct transformation in tone and style in order to relate the same message to a wider audience when going from essay to article – your voice and personality come through!

*Can you transform the formal tone of the essay to an engaging, personality and voice-driven article, relatable to an everyday readership of a newspaper/magazine?*

## PRODUCTION Competency Criteria /3 (total \_\_\_\_\_%)

### CONTEXT

- Understanding of the genre: reflection + essay + newspaper/magazine article and readership.
- Voice is highly individual and resonant, informal and relatable = **first person POV**
- Tone and register suit the context, e.g. distant and contemplative about a social commentary song, personal and illuminatory about why it means something to you, and reminiscent or lamenting about how the meaning and you have changed over time, etc...

*Do you understand the task at hand and have you created an interesting piece to read for this audience?*

### Article Layout & presentation

- 2-3 columns, fully justified margins, single-spaced (no 10pt default), size 10 font Times New Roman
- Headline (less than 7-8 words) size 14/16 in bold AND sub-headline (DEC) size 12/14 in italics
- Byline, all CAPS, size 8 (your name)
- Press credential, size 10 (the news outfit you represent)
- Callout, size 12 (a quote from your own work, not someone else, that represents your idea)
- 2 photos: yours (columnist) and one of the album the song is on OR of the artist
- Fit to one page – adjust margins
- Separation of main ideas of essay into shorter paragraphs for article
- Make sure you indent 5 space bars (not the TAB key) and do not skip lines between paragraphs

*Do you know how to format and layout an article to meet these industry standards?*

### STYLE (in harmony with context)

#### Structure and Features of Text:

- Structure: an engaging **LEAD** which introduces and elaborates on the topic under reflection; **DEVELOP** your thoughts, feelings, and/or experiences in an order that makes sense and **EXPLORE** all aspects and nuances of the topic, **CONCLUDE** by wrapping up your examination, looking at the change over time, and by integrating your **THESIS** in the form of sharing a revelation, epiphany, and/or life lesson.
- Choose an organizational framework to prioritize, sequence, and explore ideas from multiple perspectives, eg, classification, cause/effect, compare/contrast OR chronological
- Use/combine/manipulate the conventions of reflection: narration, explanation, description, and/or argument and persuasion to add detail / elaborate
- Use a circular construction technique to come back to ideas in the intro of headline and use word play in the last line to get the reader to re-think about the title or that idea.

*Do you understand how to structure a reflective essay?*

#### Codes and Conventions of Language:

- Use of literary techniques: metaphor, simile, imagery, personification, symbolism, irony, satire, sarcasm,
- Use of transitions and transitional words and phrases
- Sense of flow, coherence, and cohesion
- Use of diction, punctuation, syntax, and spelling

*Can you apply a variety of techniques, including proper use of grammatical mechanics, to make your writing lively and engaging to read?*

### PRESENT AS FOLLOWS:

GC article, RD article w/ peer review and revision notes AND labelled techniques, RD annotated essay draft w/ peer review and revision notes and headline ideas and rhetorical strategies to add in, outline/plan/template, annotated song lyrics, aesthetigram, and this checklist last.

### PROCESS:

\_\_\_ UP TO -15% FOR NON-COMPLETION OR NON-SUBMISSION OF ALL THE STEPS DONE IN CLASS.