

### English 848: Essay #1 Reflective Essay

A very important part of your success in English 848 will be your ability to discuss your writing and what you've learned about writing and your writing process. You have to walk the walk and you have to talk the talk. Your purpose here will be to make the audience—your knowledgeable evaluator, me--understand how well you've understood the lessons about effective writing practice taught in this class. Essentially, you will need to show here that you know what you're doing that's working and also what you still need to improve.

Please write a cover letter for Essay #1 in which you address your performance as a writer, stating a thesis and supporting your assertion with **P.I.E. paragraphs** that respond to the following paragraph prompts. Remember to be specific in your illustrations and explanations.

1. In the first paragraph, briefly introduce the Essay #1 assignment, using your own words and the situation in which you received it (more on this in class), and then state your overall self-evaluation about your performance on this essay. This will be your thesis. "I am \_\_\_\_\_ myself, because I \_\_\_\_\_."
2. In your second paragraph, discuss how the lessons in this class about writing process (the 12-Step Program) have affected your process in making this essay. (Refer to the Program, which you can link to from the homepage). Which parts of the 12-Step Program did you use and which parts didn't you use as you composed this essay and why or why not?
3. Next, name one specific writing issue (such as asserting an effective thesis, developing illustrations in paragraphs, or staying on topic) with which you've had trouble in the past and then discuss your progress in overcoming it this time. What specifically did you do to improve on it and what do you think you might do differently next time?
4. Discuss what you are doing to improve your editing skills and how they helped you in editing this paper. Name one or two grammar or mechanical issues you've identified or that have been identified in your writing and what you did to address them in this essay. What new "tools" have you used?
5. Write about whom you shared your writing with during the composing process and how that contributed (positively or negatively) to your final essay. Did you see anyone in the 800 Lab? Did you see me? How effective was peer workshop? Did you discuss your essay with your peers outside of class? Was there anyone else whom you showed your essay to? Or did you write your essay in complete isolation from your audience? How did choices in finding or not finding an audience contribute to your writing.
6. Conclude by explaining why you are proud (or not proud) of your performance on this essay.