**Speech and Presentation Final Exam**

Writing a reflective essay is similar to looking into a mirror, except that instead of seeing objects reflected in the room behind you, you “see” reflections of a past experience. Reflective essays are usually written at the completion of a milestone. For instance, a student may be asked to write a reflective essay at the end of a course of study or the completion of an individual or class project.

A reflective essay is not to be confused with an informative essay. While an informative essay relates facts like where you went, what you did, and how much things cost, a reflective essay is an evaluation. It’s a record of your feelings and findings from the beginning of your experience until the end. In addition to concluding with a summary of your subject, the conclusion to a reflective essay usually also includes what you learned from the experience.

The essay format of ***introduction, body, and conclusion*** is at its strongest when used to write a reflective essay. Begin writing your essay by describing your subject, your feelings and/or expectations at the beginning of the project and by partly disclosing or hinting at your conclusion.

Ex: “I didn’t know what to expect when I signed up for Speech and Presentation, but I soon found out that it would not be a typical class.”

Your essay body would go on to describe the class, examining not just the notable experiences but also ***why*** you found them notable. This particular essay might conclude with the class’s highlights and the reasons you came away feeling that, “it would not be a typical class.”

In most reflective essays, as well as describing what went right, you’ll also want to describe what went wrong or what could be improved and how. For instance, you might describe activities you didn’t enjoy that could have been better, and why. You could also discuss which speeches worked best and which didn’t, and why. Alternatively, you might describe things you learned that were surprising or things that helped you along the way.

The most important factor to remember in writing a reflective essay is that your opinions and conclusions should directly relate to the experiences you examine in the essay body. Don’t forget that a “summary” is different from a “conclusion.” While a summary simply rehashes main points, a conclusion synthesizes the experiences and includes a judgment or evaluation of sorts.

Your final reflective essay is to be two-three typed, double-spaced pages, in 12-point Times, Arial, or Century font, with 1-inch margins. No exceptions. I will be looking for organization, depth of thinking, correct grammar and mechanics, and evidence that you have really examined your experience in this course. **Please remember that this is your final exam and will comprise 20% of your grade in the course. Treat it as such.**

**This paper is due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**