

White Paper: Midterm

WRIT 0590: Module 5.1

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Midterm Portfolio Overview

- ▶ A collection of first-half-semester assignments
- ▶ Prefaced by a **Reflection Letter**

Rhetorical Awareness

- ▶ For each piece of writing, identify your audience
- ▶ Ask: “Who am I speaking to? Why would they care?”
- ▶ Communicate efficiently and purposefully

Developing Your Ideas

- ▶ Logical coherence (avoid contradictions)
- ▶ Build a clear line of reasoning
- ▶ Inventive thinking and novel approaches

Genre & Presentation

- ▶ Respect genre conventions
- ▶ Check grammar and formatting
- ▶ Consider the “reading experience” or overall vibe, to what extent the text reads as an assignment

Reflection Letter: Key Points

- ▶ **Genre** Informal, conversational cover letter
- ▶ **Audience** faculty reader unfamiliar with your progress in class
- ▶ **Purpose** Show learning and thought process
- ▶ **Motive for Reader** Understand your writing challenges and insights

Reflection Letter: Suggested Structure

1. **Salutation:** *Dear Faculty Readers:*
2. **Introduction:** Brief background (no need to restate your name)
3. **Challenge Discussion:**
 - ▶ What was the WRITING challenge?
 - ▶ What did you already know?
 - ▶ How did you attempt to overcome it?
 - ▶ What did you still need to learn?
 - ▶ What lesson emerged?
 - ▶ Where else could this lesson apply?
4. **Closing:**
 - ▶ Goals or takeaways
 - ▶ Thanks to the reader
 - ▶ Sign off (*Sincerely, Your Name*)

Assignments in the Portfolio

- ▶ Let's practice
- ▶ For each major piece, clarify:
 - ▶ **Audience:** Who's meant to read it?
 - ▶ **Purpose:** Why would they care?
- ▶ Show how you tailored writing for each context

Deadlines & Next Steps

- ▶ Peer reviews, revision plans, evaluations, reflection letters
- ▶ Seek feedback (e.g., writing center)
- ▶ Integrate suggestions into your final portfolio