



Weekly Reflection

In a weekly reflection, you summarize the work you did during the previous week. A weekly reflection is related to keeping a research log except that it is not as detailed.

Your weekly reflection should include at least four components.¹ First, you should state what you actually accomplished during the previous week while giving particular emphasis on what you learned.

Second, you should include questions you have as a researcher. There are two potential audiences for these questions: yourself or your instructor. Questions addressed to yourself demonstrate where your research is heading. Questions directed to your instructor would spring from difficulties you encountered during the research process and for which you need your instructor's assistance to solve.

Third, you should lay out a plan for how you intend to proceed with your research during the next week.

Finally, you should estimate how much time you spent working on the course.

In addition to helping yourself organize your materials, by providing a brief weekly reflection for your instructor, you will get better feedback from him or her concerning your progress in the course. Because "students who get behind and in trouble are often the ones tempted to cheat" (Carbone), the weekly reflection is important because it will be less likely that you will fall behind in the course.

References and Resources

Carbone, Nick. "Talking About Plagiarism: A Syllabus Strategy for Talking About Plagiarism with Students." *Strategies for Teaching with Online Tools*. N.d. Bedford/St. Martin's. 22 July 2013.

Stripling, Barbara K. "Learning-Centered Libraries: Implications from Research." *School Library Media Quarterly* 23.3 (1995): 163-170. Cited in Lathrop, Ann and Kathleen Foss. *Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.

¹ The first three parts of the weekly reflection are based on recommendations originally proposed by Barbara K. Stripling (1995) as the elements of a research log.



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