

## Review & Analysis of Student Reflective Journals

Please note that ways to review and analyze **Student Work** may differ depending on level, content area, focus of work, and teaching questions/focus among other things.

The following worksheets are a **Heuristic\*** and NOT a recipe or set procedure but more to encourage reflection on students' work to inform future instruction.

The review of student writing can be on concepts/ideas/ reasoning/connections related to specific content **OR** could be a students' thoughts and attitude towards something/someone/ a subject area/ experiences (for example relevance of STEM concepts on daily lives; or a personal journal about feelings they had or recollections, etc.... )

\*\*\* The questions below are to make you **think deeply and look closely at student work** from different perspectives (it is NOT a set procedure), so use what you feel applies best to the piece(s) you are reviewing **AND YOU CAN add questions** that may be relevant to your students/subject/inquiry focus.

---

### Context and background of assignment:

What was the objective and aim of the assignment/journal?

---

### Descriptive

1. What are my first impressions of this collection or piece?
2. What idea do you see the student trying to express? (Frame in specifics such as words/concepts, sentences, and/or short passages)
3. What are those ideas and understandings?
4. How are they related to other ideas you have addressed in class or students' prior knowledge?

---

\* **Heuristic:** "Heuristic (pronounced [/hjuˈrɪstɪk/](#)) or **heuristics** (from the [Greek](#) "εὕρισκω" for "find" or "discover") refers to experience-based techniques for problem solving, learning, and discovery. Heuristic methods are used to speed up the process of finding a good enough solution, where an exhaustive search is impractical. Examples of this method include using a "[rule of thumb](#)", an educated guess, an intuitive judgment, or [common sense](#)." (Wikipedia.org)

### Analytical

1. Was there any aspect that surprised in the work? What was this? And why?

#### Strengths and Challenges

- ✓ Give examples of the strengths you see /what parts of the concept did she/he seem to gain “some form” of understandings about? (This may be more relevant when there is an “accepted” answer rather than several valid ones such as in science)
- ✓ Does the writing show an understanding of the material (adequate, accurate, or otherwise) of \_\_\_\_\_? How does the student do that?
- ✓ What can you see as a challenge to him/her (what further understandings do they need to develop?)
- ✓ How can you use their existing ideas (or conceptions) to address challenges they have?
  
- ✓ Does the student incorporate relevant content specific academic vocabulary such as \_\_\_\_\_? Are these accurately used?

### Reflective

1. Do you feel that the assignment and work piece gave students chances to represent their knowledge and competencies?
2. Can students revisit it and modify their work?
3. What realizations about your teaching/student work/topic of study do this/these pieces seem to point to (positive or negative)? e.g. 3) Does the product show effort and creativity?
4. How might you frame the next activity/assignment for this student (or for the class as appropriate)?
5. What knowledge/resources can you seek and consult? (people and literature)
6. **If part of an action research:** what have I learned about my AR questions?

