



REACHing to the Past, Present, and Future **~ Reflective Essay ~**

Overview

Now that you have finished your REACH board, you will be reflecting on the past, present, and future of your REACH experience. The paper should be divided into three sections.

Write one paragraph for each section in response to **three – five questions** per section from the *Questions to Consider* on the back of this page.

General Requirements

Prewriting: write out answers to the questions on the back of this page (**three – five** from each section) using a separate sheet of paper. Then create a series of webs using the answers you generated. Identify what the **main idea** of each paragraph will be (to help you write topic sentences). _____ / 5

Rough Draft Resubmitted with Peer Revision: double space lines (as usual); draft(s) must show **strong** evidence of **thorough** revision to the content, not just the conventions. _____ / 2

Final Draft: The information above should be arranged in **three paragraphs** with clear **topic sentences**. Each paragraph should be *six - twelve* sentences long. The paper must be **typed**. _____ / 3

Writing Assessment

Ideas and Content: responds to **three – five questions per section**; responses go beyond the obvious and reveal **deep thought**; writing makes sense; shows that you understand the subject; has interesting and **specific details**. The writing avoids general statements like “I learned a lot from Project REACH.” _____ / 5

Voice: writing shows a strong **personal connection** to topic; shows **honest thoughts and feelings**; reflects a strong **interest** in topic; tone **sounds natural** (sounds like you); the reader can see the person behind the words. _____ / 5

Total Points: _____ / **20**

Questions to Consider

Past: what process did you follow in creating your REACH board?

- How did you decide what topic to focus on?
- What problems/frustrations did you have in gathering information? How did you solve those problems?
- How did you decide what to put on your board?
- What considerations did you have for your overall design?
- What do you wish you could have done differently on your REACH board or related assignments?
- What surprised you about Project REACH?

Present: how are you teaching others about your topic?

- What opportunities have you had to share your project with others?
- How did it feel to present your project to your class?
- What were your thoughts about the Project REACH night?
- How did you share your project with family members?
- What do you think others are learning about you that they did not know before?

Future: what are the most important lessons and experiences you will remember from Project REACH?

- What new learnings did you discover about your family and/or cultural history?
- How will the new learnings change you as you continue to grow?
- What new learnings do you want to pass on to future generations? How might you continue the traditions you learned about for this project?
- What new skills (organizational, research, visual design, etc.) will you be able to use in future projects?
- If someone in the future did a REACH board about you, what would be on it? In other words, how would you hope to be remembered?