

Freshmen Seminar Reflection Paragraph

Each class session will start with a question from the teacher for you to reflect on. You will have about 5 – 10 minutes to reflect on the question and write your paragraph.

Paragraphs should:

- Be 6 to 8 complete sentences long
- Should have a topic sentence as the first sentence
 - Your topic sentence should either make a claim if you're making an argument or summarize your answer if you're writing a narrative.
 - Your topic sentence should directly address the question asked.
- Sentences following your topic sentence should support your topic sentence with more specific ideas or evidence.
- You should specifically connect those ideas and evidence to your topic sentence...why does those ideas and evidence support your topic sentence?
- Follow the pyramid rule. For every idea or claim you have, use three pieces of evidence to support that idea. Remember a tricycle is more stable than a bicycle or a unicycle.

Paragraphs will be graded by the instructor based on following the guidelines above.

Sample:

Question: What makes Agoura High School a great school?

The students of Agoura High School make AHS the greatest high school in the country. Our students aren't just great in the classroom, but in many aspects of life. Our students routinely get excellent grades and test scores, but they do so much more! We have over 1500 students involved in athletics, performing arts, clubs, and community service organizations. But more importantly, our students support each other through thick and thin every single day. Every day I see students celebrating birthdays and successes of all kinds. And every day I see students comforting other students who are struggling with class, family, or physical health. And that support doesn't end when you graduate, we are Chargers for life!

"How do I know what I think until I see what I write?" – Mary Catherine Swanson