

FIRST-STAGE WRITING PORTFOLIO: REFLECTIVE INTRODUCTION ESSAY (RIE)

Sample RIE: See the [Portfolio Guide on the Writing Program & Requirements](#) website for complete instructions on what to include in your RIE.

- Remember the total RIE wordcount is 750 words (ok if it is a bit longer, but keep it close to 750).
- Put your wordcount for the RIE at the top of the first page.
- You should NOT cut and paste the sample material below (or write your sentences to mimic the structure of those below). Your RIE should focus on specific elements of your writing and your writing process.

SHORT INTRODUCTION: *Keep this section to 200 words or fewer (unless you include info you might otherwise put in a Conclusion: see below). The main purpose of this section is to introduce yourself as a writer and to reflect briefly on your writing knowledge, growth, and areas for improvement.*

Sample Intro: After completing one full semester of CSP and a few weeks into the spring term, I have learned much about my writing so far. I entered Oxy feeling fairly confident about my writing abilities and I typically received positive feedback on my writing previously. What I have discovered so far at Oxy is that in order to continue to improve my writing and produce successful essays I need to dedicate more time to my writing process. Mainly, I realize that I need to adapt to college-level writing expectations by managing my time more effectively. In my early assignments, I was not setting aside enough time for revision and so the essays I turned in were less polished and complete. There are also specific areas in my writing I need to focus on to improve, especially paragraph structure, topic claims, and conclusions. I have submitted three essays that I believe best represent the current strengths of my writing: clear thesis statements, effective use of evidence from sources, and overall presentation of my ideas in terms of grammar and style.

ESSAY #1 DESCRIPTION: *Aim for around 150 words*

Sample Paragraph: The essay titled “_____” was the second paper for my fall CSP course. The assignment was to choose one of six designated readings and write a 2-3 page paper in two parts: summarizing the author’s argument in the first part and analyzing the argument in the second part. I chose to write about the article by _____ because I wanted to challenge myself to understand it better. Unlike my first essay for this class, when I did not set aside time for revision, I planned more carefully for this paper so I could draft and revise before turning it in. We did not have peer review for this essay and I did not receive any initial feedback from my instructor. I went to the Writing Center a few times to talk through my ideas and as I was drafting and revising. I spent a total of about 11 hours on this essay. I believe the final version of this essay reflects my ability to write a clear main thesis and to use quotes effectively as evidence for my claims.

ESSAY #2 DESCRIPTION: *Aim for around 150 words*

Sample Paragraph: SIMILAR TO ESSAY #1

ESSAY #3 DESCRIPTION: *Aim for around 150 words*

Sample Paragraph: SIMILAR TO ESSAY #1

BRIEF CONCLUSION (OPTIONAL): *You can include a short conclusion (~100 words) to say more about your writing and writing process and why you believe your portfolio demonstrates that you have achieved college-level writing proficiency **OR** you can include this information in your Introduction.*

Sample Conclusion: I believe my writing shows I am prepared for more advanced or upper-division writing courses. I took a 200-level history course already which required a significant amount of writing (3 essays including a final research paper), and I completed the assignments successfully. This is not to say I do not have more to learn or that there are no improvements to make in my writing. I would like to keep working on organization and paragraph structure so the progression of my ideas is clearer to my readers, and I need better “signposts” such as topic claims and transitions.