

Writing

Explain some of the following in a clear and effective story about your life as a writer:

- ☐ Think about yourself as a writer at the beginning of the year and compare that with where you are now as a writer. Have you changed? If so, what caused that change?
- ☐ Discuss how you have succeeded (or not) in developing fluency in writing practice.
- ☐ Discuss how you have improved as a writer (citing specific examples from your work).
- ☐ Share your understanding of what makes good writing and *how* you have learned to define it.
- ☐ Analyze your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Use your writing projects, both digital and written, as well as your writer's notebook, and cite specific examples from your work across the year.
- ☐ What is the most important piece you've written? Explain.
- ☐ Which piece would you like to burn? Explain.
- ☐ Which piece was most difficult to write? How did you work through the difficulty?
- ☐ Which piece was most enjoyable to write?
- ☐ Discuss specific writing strategies you've used with references to specific texts you've written.
- ☐ Discuss how you have improved some of your previous texts for this portfolio.
- ☐ In what ways do you still need to improve your writing? How will you improve?
- ☐ What are your immediate and long-range goals as a writer? What are your goals for this summer? For next year?

Reading

Explain some of the following in a clear and effective story about your life as a reader:

- ☐ Think about yourself as a reader at the beginning of the year and compare that with where you are now as a reader. Look at your beginning-of-year survey and compare it to how you would answer those questions today. Have you changed? If so, what caused that change?
- ☐ Discuss how you have succeeded (or not) in developing a regular reading habit.
- ☐ Discuss favorite books you read this year as well as a clunker or two.
- ☐ Have you discovered any new authors and/or genres that you like? Discuss the skills you used as a reader to determine if a book was a good fit for you; how you made sense of it when you struggled; and when a book kept you reading past the assigned time each night.
- ☐ Discuss what you learned about writing from reading other writers.
- ☐ Discuss how book clubs influenced you as a reader this year.
- ☐ Are you satisfied with the amount of reading you did this year? Yes? No? Explain.
- ☐ Discuss your balance of reading nonfiction versus fiction. What did you learn about their similarities and differences?
- ☐ Discuss reading strategies that you use. Be specific.
- ☐ In what ways do you still need improvement in your reading? How will you improve?
- ☐ What are your immediate and long-range goals as a reader? What are your goals for this summer? For next year?

Figure 5.10 Reflecting on a Year of Writing and Reading

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