

AP English Language and Composition
Q1 Reflective Memo for Mini-Portfolio

The Portfolio

The Q1 portfolio asks you to choose two pieces to revise and refine. You may choose among:

- Giannone Rhetorical Analysis
- O'Connor SQ Essay
- Colin Powell FRQ3 expanded to essay length
- In-class writing on allusion in *Gatsby*

No matter which pieces you choose, the result should be full-length essays of 3 pages each. For example, if you choose the Colin Powell writing, which is only a paragraph, you need to expand it, adding ideas and deepening it, so that it is more fully developed.

The Reflective Memo

The reflective memo is also a serious piece of writing, coming in at 1–2 pages, double spaced. It's a memo so that you are thinking about talking in a professional and/but friendly way to your specific audience (me).

This assignment asks you to look back on the writing you've composed over the quarter as well as at teacher responses, in order to discuss what you've learned about the process of reading, writing about, and participating in conversations about literature. Keep the memo focused on your own progress—it's not a critique of the class but a way to log your progress and learning.

Explain your progress as a reader and writer over the course of the quarter and discuss how you've learned some nuances of literature itself and of academic writing. Reflect on all the writing you've done this quarter and provide **evidence** for your reflection's claim, **using examples from your writing and from class discussion, class texts, and teacher comments.**

1. Reflect in general on your progress this quarter. What has been challenging? How have you risen to meet those challenges? What are the main reading and/or writing skills you have worked on this quarter? What growth are you particularly proud of? How is AP Lang different from your 10th grade course? Do you use any AP Lang skills in other courses?
2. Detail the changes you have made in your two chosen pieces, handling first one essay and then the other. Be specific about how the changes improve your work. Group kinds of changes into categories rather than going line by line through your pieces.