

UBC Community Field Experience (Secondary) 2019 | Weekly Reflection Assignment
Designed by Blake Smith (FA)



Dear teachers,

Being a reflective teacher is incredibly important. It informs how you grow and acknowledge that growth over time in your coming career. Actively putting those reflections into practice is key as well as revisiting them, willing to challenge even your own assumptions or habits. Reflecting is a way of teaching yourself to learn.

For your 3 weekly reflections due on Sundays, I am providing some prompts (**see page 2**) to guide your writing within a structure of 3 key pillars: story, meaning, & questions. As someone who appreciates student choice and creative writing, I am also leaving room for you to choose the direction(s) you wish to pursue in pillar 2. Week 3 needs to be more summative with a holistic view of not only that week but across the entire experience. Feel free to share these with site partners if you choose.

Please proofread then submit *one single evolving word document* in English for these reflections, so that by the end they are all together in one place. Done this way, you will be able to easily reference those reflections for summer courses and/or inquiry projects, and it will read like a CFE journal. If you are blogging, send me the link and an email each Sunday once posted.

These should be between 300-500 words or 2 double spaced pages, submitted with: your name, CFE location & supervisor(s), date, the age groups & subject areas being taught, and a thoughtful title. Feel free to include photos without faces/names. *For those doing visual journals, please contact me for details of how to submit and write to those pages. There are several good visual journaling links on my teaching blog.

Here is the assignment.

For weeks 1-3, please address the following 3 pillars each week:

story

First, tell me the story of your week in a few sentences.

Focus on highlights, lowlights, activities, and who you worked with/taught.

I encourage you to think like a storyteller, dig deep, and be honest. For some, sketching out their week on a visual map or timeline is helpful to begin writing.

meaning

Second, write about the *two most meaningful things you learned* this week. Try to provide context.

This is open to whatever is on your heart or, if needed, here are some optional prompts to inspire you.

- 1) how to meet the needs of the population/community you are working with
- 2) how to be a better teacher & care for students/yourself
- 3) what learning looks/feels like in this new context
- 4) qualities of effective teaching here & why they work
- 5) the importance of: imagination, compassion, listening, teamwork, etc.
- 6) something that surprised you, got messy, or caught you off-guard
- 7) something a student taught you
- 8) feedback you received from others
- 9) a leadership opportunity you got to experience
- 10) a new understanding, method, or tool to apply to your own practice

questions

Third, share some lingering questions you will take with you from this week and carry forward. Re-reading this reflection may reveal new questions.

I look forward to reading these! Enjoy your writing!

Blake 😊