

Reflective Journal Instructions

Now you have finished your annotated book review project. Write a short journal piece to think about your project. In your journal answer the following questions:

What I did: (explain what you and your group did to finish your project.)

What I enjoyed: (write about what you liked most about the project.)

What I found difficult: (write about any part of the project you found hard to do.)

What really worked: (write about any part that you thought worked well).

Next time: (write what you would do differently next time.)

Example:

We decided what we wanted to include in our book review and then we worked together to write it. Each of us developed one paragraph and then we revised it so it all went together smoothly. Next we selected the ideas that we wanted to annotate in our review and assigned one topic to each group member. We each researched our topic and wrote our report for our annotation. We group edited our reports for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, parenthetical citations, and Works Cited section. Finally we used the FrontPage directions and put our review and annotations on a Web site, carefully hyperlinking the review to each of the annotations and hyperlinking the annotations back to the review.

I really enjoyed discussing our book in lit circles. Thinking up what we were going to say in the review was tough. Talking over our story together made it easier. Writing the review was fun and was quite easy. If we made a mistake, we could just delete and start over. If one of us forgot our part, we could ask the rest of the group for help.

It was hard doing the individual research reports. We had to decide which part each of us would research. We had to find our information and then decide how we were going to use it in our reports. It was also difficult at first knowing how to use the parenthetical notations and the right format for the Works Cited entries.

It worked really well when we worked together to put up our Web sites. Hyperlinking was easier than I thought it would be, and it was fun adding clip art and pictures to the writing.

Next time I would take more notes on my research in my own words so it would be easier to write the report. I would also choose my clip art and Internet pictures before putting up the Web site to make it go faster.