

Reflective Journal Instructions

Now you have finished your Way to Rainy Mountain project. Write a short journal to think about your project. In your journal answer the following questions:

What I Did	Explain what you 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.
Next Time	Write what you would do differently next time.

Example:

What I Did: After reading and discussing the book, I interviewed my grandfather on how our family came to South Dakota, and any family legends or stories he remembered. I then wrote these up in his voice. Next I searched the Internet for Folk Tales from Norway and found one that was a little bit connected to the theme of my Grandfather's stories. I rewrote this in my own words, trying to use the voice of a storyteller. Next I wrote in my own voice and composed a description of my grandfather as he told me the stories, and then my connection to my grandfather and the theme of the myth. Next I got a group together to peer conference and edit my pieces. I word-processed them, putting the legend on one page and the interview and my personal writing on a second page. Then our whole class compiled the pages, made a cover page, and bound our stories together in a class book.

What I Enjoyed: I really enjoyed discussing our stories in class. I also enjoyed going out to grandfather's farm and interviewing him. My grandmother made chocolate chip cookies for my visit. It was one of the first times I had my grandfather to myself and actually had a long conversation with him.

What I Found Difficult: It was hard finding a folk tale from my ethnic background that sort of connected with what my grandfather told me, but I kept searching and finally found a site that had several. It was also difficult retelling it in my own words, but my peer conferencing group was a big help. It was also difficult photocopying all the class stories so that they were printed on both sides so the book looked like a real book, and we had the same format as Momaday's book.

Next Time: I would take more time writing the each of my pieces because my personal one was a little brief. I would also add some pictures to our class book as Momaday did in his book.