

REFLECTIONS PAPER

3-4 pages, typewritten, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt font, APA format for citations

Purpose: The purpose of the Reflections Paper is to:

- Enhance your self-reflection skills
- Explore your identity, purpose, and belonging in the field
- Compare practices from your family/culture to author's ideas
- Continue to develop your identity as a teacher

Task: Reflectivity is an important skill for infant teachers. Masterful practitioners continuously reflect on their practices, interactions with children, families, and colleagues. Being reflective is a skill that requires time and practice to develop. This paper allows you to continue the journey of being reflective and developing reflectivity. In this paper, you will reflect on your identity and family/cultural community's practices related to raising and caring for infants. After reading about practices in the field, you will compare your family/cultural community's practices to those you read about. Steps:

To write this paper, follow these suggested steps:

1. Reflect on your identities. How do you identify yourself? How do you describe your identity? How do you introduce yourself? Make a list of your identities.
2. Reflect on yourself as a learner, your strengths as a learner, and what facilitates your learning. Free write or make lists describing:
 - a. How you describe yourself as a learner
 - b. Your strengths as a learner
 - c. What facilitates your learning in class, including the types of activities, assignments & structures
 - d. What facilitates your learning outside-of-class
3. Reflect on why you chose to attend college and why you selected BMCC. Free write/make lists of the reasons
4. Reflect on why you enrolled in the infant-toddler specialization of the BMCC's early childhood education program and why you want to work with infants-toddlers. Free write/ make lists of the reasons
5. Reflect on how infants were cared for in your family/cultural community. Contact relatives/ members of your cultural community for clarity if needed. Free write/ make lists describing:
 - a. How your family/culture/background raised & cared for infants?
 - b. How your family/culture/background supported infant development?
 - c. What activities adults did & engaged in with babies?
 - d. How were infants respected in your family/cultural community?
6. Read Cheshire (2007) & Christie (2018)
 - a. As you read, make lists of how infants are respected according to each author
7. Make lists comparing how infants are respected in your family/cultural community to the authors descriptions:
 - a. How are the authors' ideas of respecting infants similar to those of your family/cultural community?
 - b. How are the authors' ideas of respecting infants different from those of your family/cultural community?
8. Use the lists/free writes you created to construct paragraphs.
9. Proofread the paper.
10. The paper should contain the following parts:

Part 1: Introducing Yourself

- Identities

- How do you identify yourself?
- What are your identities?
- Learner
 - How would you describe yourself as a learner?
 - What are your strengths as a learner?
 - What facilitates your learning in class settings?
 - What types of activities and assignments facilitates your learning?
 - How should class be structured to facilitate your learning?
 - What facilitates your learning in settings outside of class?

Part 2: Your Family/ Cultural Practices

- How did your family/ culture/ background raise and care for infants?
 - How did they support infant learning & development?
 - What activities did adults do & engage in with babies?
- Who cared for infants when their primary caregivers worked?

Part 3: Respecting Infants

- Describe how babies were respected in your family/culture. Give specific examples.
- Compare how babies were respected in your family/culture to Cheshire (2007) and Christie (2018). Give specific examples of how the practices of respecting babies in your family/ cultural community are similar to and different from the authors ideas of resecting infants.

Part 4: Conclusion

- Why do you want to work with infants-toddlers? Why are you in the infant-toddler specialization of BMCC’s Early Childhood Education Program?
- Why are you in college? Why did you choose to attend BMCC?

REFLECTIONS PAPER CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT – if you can answer ‘yes’ to all questions, your paper meets expectations for the assignment

ELEMENT	DOES YOUR PAPER:	Y/N
IDENTITIES	Contain a clear, thorough & thoughtful description of your identities and explanation of who you are as a learner that is full of rich, vivid details?	
FAMILY/CULTURAL PRACTICES	Contain a clear, thorough & thoughtful description of how babies were raised, & cared for in your family/ cultural community that included specific practices supported by rich, vivid details?	
RESPECTING INFANTS	Include a clear, well-developed explanation of how infants are respected, & in your family/ cultural community, with rich, vivid details?	
COMPARISON	Thoughtfully compare how infants were respected in your family/ cultural community to the concepts described by Cheshire (2007) & Christie (2018) in context, appropriately, & meaningfully using APA format?	
CONCLUSIONS	Thoughtfully & thoroughly answer the questions using rich, vivid details?	
CLARITY	The paper was clear, organized, coherent, full of examples, & there was evidence of proofreading	