Sample Student-Led Comments

Note: The following comments are from a 10th Grade Humanities class. They reflect a variety of performance levels (for the semester), and the students represent a range of diverse backgrounds.

Instructions for students can be found <u>here</u>. If you are interested in learning more about the projects themselves, you can find information on the instructor's <u>digital portfolio</u>.

Fiona's Reflection:

This summer, I didn't spend a lot of time considering what 10th grade would be like. I didn't think that it would be that much different than 9th grade to be honest. I was excited for the school year, and I was excited about having new teachers. But I didn't really know what to expect. Turns out that I have learned a lot about myself as a person and as a student.

Our first project, the character sketch, taught me a lot about my growth as a writer. When I look back at my character sketch and compare it to the work that I did later on this semester, I see a big change. I didn't really like the character sketch that much because I couldn't decide who I wanted to write about. Eventually I chose Michael Phelps, but if I could go back and do it again I think I may have chosen someone else. Of everything that we did this year, I struggled the most with the character sketch I think. I didn't really know what I was trying to do with it, and like I said, I was pretty unsure about who I should write about. But because of the character sketch (among other things) I learned this semester that I enjoy creative writing a lot more than factual/persuasive essays.

My favorite writing assignment by far this semester was the ASM narrative. Maybe this is because I learned so much from doing the very similar character sketch at the beginning of the year. I'm glad that we did that project at the beginning of the year, because I think that it affected my writing in the long run. I like creative writing because you have so much room for well, creativity. With persuasive essays you have such strict guidelines you need to follow in order for it to be good. That can be helpful sometimes, but I like to have room to do what I want with my writing.

Something I really enjoyed doing this year was the simulations we did during the Fragile States Project. I have never done anything like that in the past and I thought they were really interesting. It evoked a lot of deep thinking in our class, and that was really cool. I really like learning about stuff that is going on in the world and applying it to my education. The conflicts we covered during the Fragile States Projects were conflicts that I didn't really know that much about, so I really liked learning more about them. I'm really proud of the India/Pakistan Partition Essay that I wrote because I worked really hard on it. I learned a lot about how to use outlines, (which I have never used when writing essays) and that was really helpful. That is something that I can take with me in the future and use a lot. Another thing I really enjoyed about the

Fragile States Project was all the guest speakers who came to talk to us. Having a person talking in front of you is so different than reading an article or a section of a textbook. It makes everything so much more real. I really hope that we will get to have more of that kind of experience for the rest of this year and the years to come at High Tech High. Also I am pretty proud of our exhibition for this project. We didn't have much time to prepare but I think that it went really well. I really love Socratic seminars and so I naturally enjoyed this one. I really liked learning about Socialism, and it changed the way I look at politics a little bit. Anyway, I am proud of that exhibition. My mom actually told me that it was one of the best exhibitions she has been to at High Tech High, and that means a lot to me since she has been to so many.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers was definitely one of the most depressing books I have ever read. Closely followed by A Thousand Splendid Suns. But even though both of these books were extremely sad, I really enjoyed reading them, and wouldn't have changed my choices if I could go back and choose different book club books. A Thousand Splendid Suns is now one of my favorite books and I am especially glad that I read that one because it was right around the time that I was doing a project all about Afghanistan, and it helped me learn a lot about the county. Then I read The Great Gatsby, which I can't tell if I liked or hated. I definitely hated the ending. I kind of understand why the author chose to end it like that, but it still makes me mad. And I feel like I know way too much about the book, since I wrote my Response to Literature about it. But I don't regret reading that one either. I can't really think of anything I regret reading. Even if I don't like a book I still learn something from it. I love reading, and I enjoyed book clubs a lot this semester. I really like being able to talk to someone about how I am feeling about the book I am reading.

Another thing that I was really proud of this year was the background document for the ASM projects. My partner and I wrote ours about Afghanistan. Coming up to this assignment I was extremely stressed out. Everything was happening really fast, we had just started the project, Thanksgiving break was a week away, and I felt like I didn't really know that much about my topic. Honestly, I felt like it was unnecessary and that it should wait until after break. I was also really stressed because I thought we were also going to have to write an essay about Afghanistan and that freaked me out as well. But then, when we did the little presentations about our topic to other groups (seminar style) my partner and I realized that we knew a lot more about Afghanistan than we thought. Then when we wrote the document it came out really good, and really long. We knew a lot about the topic and I am really proud of that assignment. I thought it was going to be really bad and that I was going to struggle a lot, but that ended up not being the case. Overall, I really liked learning about Afghanistan since it is such a relevant topic and I knew barely anything about the situation there before this project.

The main thing that I have struggled with this semester is stress. I have learned throughout the past few years and this semester that I hold very very high standards for myself. I am very much a perfectionist, and if I am behind, or don't understand something fully, it results in a lot of stress and anxiety on my part. I work really really hard and that's good, but I want to learn how to relax a little bit. I dump a lot on myself, and on top of school, I swim on a competitive swim team five

days a week which also puts a lot of stress on me. It's a problem that I have and that I need to work on because it will continue to be a problem throughout the rest of high school and college and even beyond that. So next semester I am going to try really hard to not worry so much about being perfect all the time because it doesn't always help me. When I start to get really stressed about something, I am going to remember that it isn't necessary and that I need to calm down.

Overall, this semester has been a lot of work, and a lot of fun. I learned an immense amount this semester and I am excited to learn even more next semester. And not only about content but about myself. I hope that next semester will be as great as this one. 10th grade has most certainly exceeded my expectations so far.

Teacher's Comments:

Fiona is an amazing young woman. Looking back, I cannot believe how much awesomeness she crammed into one semester. From the beginning, with her interest in India, Fiona showed her curiosity and perhaps as importantly, her empathy. She is interested in the world, and I appreciate how much she tries to understand the people and situations about which she reads. She is open-minded, but she also thinks critically enough to be outraged when necessary. She may feel like I single her out sometimes- like with her extended POL, but I loved watching her articulate and defend her points of views. During these moments, in her POL, in our simulations and mock trials, and in other conversations, she emerges from her shyness and becomes a leader. I have fond memories of her leading the Iraqi Constitutional Committee, for instance. This unorchestrated moment revealed how much her peers respect her.

Fiona continued to display her ferocious curiosity with her investigations into Afghanistan. During her "seminar" with Francesca, for example, she showed how well she understood the complexity of the situation and the echoes of history. Her accompanying paper was also excellent. She showed how her formal writing has grown, now that she is more comfortable with outlining. I look forward to the day she can vote. She and her generation will have some serious messes to clean up.

Otherwise, I was happy to see Fiona's writing improve over the semester. Her sketch on Michael Phelps was solid, but it lacked the complexity and flair of her Art and Social Movements narrative. During the latter piece, she played around with her narrative structure- incorporating a flashback. She also was able to be more concise with her descriptions. She tends to use a certain sentence structure- the structure in which she uses a dash and repeats herself (as I just demonstrated). This may sound fancy, but it is inefficient.

Moving forward, I hope that Fiona and her family will help me to challenge her while not causing her undue stress. I know that Fiona has more than just school going on. Still, her peers and I value her contributions so much that I want to continue to push her. Hopefully we can strike this balance together.

Student Teacher's Comments:

Fiona is a remarkable student. Her intelligence, maturity, and easy-going personality make her such a joy to have in class. I appreciated her family history stories, which really stood out to me, especially "Magnificent Desolation." The title alone is enough to make me like it! More importantly, the way Fiona was able to capture her family's story, the distinct setting, the emotion, and the message all in one short story is truly impressive. I am so proud of Fiona's work over the semester and I hope she is too. I know Fiona will continue to be an active participant and leader in Humanities next semester.

Tyrell's Reflection:

I wasn't the most excited to go to tenth grade. I was in the closet team and I honestly barely liked the last project, and that was because I got to draw. I'm not going to say I had a fantastic time because I don't enjoy essays very much. I enjoyed the character sketch somewhat because I got to make it up and draw. Even then I'm shocked it's considered good. It's not that I didn't put effort into it that I say this, I feel like people worked harder on it and I had fewer drafts of both the picture and the story. Typing this I realize a flaw of mine. I like to say my ideas but never really have a planned way of setting them up. This is why I mostly don't like essays. I know that I will have to do them many times in the future but I don't think I'll ever enjoy them really. On that subject it's not that the essays you assign are bad, it's just I don't really find them likable.

Speaking of the subject, I did enjoy learning about them such as stop and frisk, the soda ban and the Indian partition. With stop and frisk, I think I just had more to talk about because it seemed so confusing. It is effective but it seems from the lack of effectiveness it shouldn't be all cops do. My main point was that it's not some glorious act that we New Yorkers are lucky to be protected by. I like the concept but the results and the fact that many cops are corrupt makes me feel this idea was to fail to begin with.

The soda ban seemed like a flat out stupid idea. As a fat guy, I found many flaws. If only theaters and fast food places banned the larger sizes, can't a person who truly desires that much soda just go to the nearest corner/liquor store? Also during the soda ban debate, something I said that nobody understood was that if it is so cheap to buy a 24 and larger soda and it's twice as much to buy a 16 ounce bottle of pomegranate juice? If you ban 24 ounce sodas, lower the prices of healthy drinks too. I'd gladly give up soda if I could simply get some cheap pomegranate juice.

I found the whole Indian partition interesting. It caused this many deaths just so that India can split twice. It was a bad idea for Pakistan to be its own country in the first place. It didn't seem much planned out for the fact that part of it was on the other side of India. Gladly that part just became its own country. In their case it would be better off for them to do so instead of relying

on the bigger and more powerful part to take care of them. This also made me think hard. I always thought, because of people like Gandhi and the teachings of Buddhism originated there, that Indians would be more peaceful. Then I thought we're all human and far from perfect, even though some like to think they are closer than others.

The family history project was one that I liked as equally that I thought was bad. My family has very few great stories, or at least until I am already done writing them, they had tons of stories then. I found it funny that my first "story," the Friendship Cake was so popular among people. It was a description I made up to make an old cake I know nothing about sound good. The second story was something I liked more because it was actually interesting, except to everyone else. I found it cool that my great great grandma made WWII planes, but she died recently so I couldn't get a story straight from her about how it was. I liked it overall, but reading others stories was more enjoyable for me than making my own.

Lastly, the project I nearly rage quit on. Honestly I liked this project so much, but I hated the fact that me and Younes had the agreement to have me focus more on Julio's art and him focus more on the humanities one. I think the visual looks terrible, it looks like the old man is looking past the burning monk, the monk has a huge arm and the effects he used looks more like a tiny nuke is going off rather than flames. I was absent the day everyone else was instructed on how to make the narrative so I just missed out on the part that said don't make them the same but very similar. I can't really complain more, nor do I want to because I liked this subject. Hearing and seeing "Free Tibet" and not knowing why bothered me at some point and now I finally know why. It is a shame though that I had to learn through the sacrifice of monks.

<u>Teacher's Comments:</u>

Tyrell has an unfortunate habit of playing down his own accomplishments. I've really enjoyed having him in my class, and I thought that he did some excellent work this semester. For one, I love Tyrell's creativity. His imagination and unique sense of humor were apparent from the beginning, with his character sketch. Tyrell chose an amusing topic, and he pulled off the difficult task of giving a snail desires and a personality. His drawing was also a lot of fun. Similarly, I thought that Tyrell did a nice job on his family history stories. I know that he was frustrated that he had to fill in so many details, but even this demonstrated his initiative and creativity.

As Tyrell admits, his formal writing was less consistent. His essay on the partition of India was pretty good, particularly because Tyrell demonstrated his clear interest and outrage in the topic, but he also took a few shortcuts in terms of outlining and gathering evidence. Same with his essay on Stop and Frisk. I love how interested Tyrell is in certain subjects. Still, I wonder if he sometimes makes up his mind too quickly and doesn't go into more depth as a result. Despite these growth areas, it has been really fun having Tyrell on my team. I'm looking forward to another successful semester.

Student Teacher's Comments:

Tyrell is a unique, fun, and bright young man who worked hard this past semester. With a bit of a push next semester, he can do even better. Like Dan, I, too, appreciate how Tyrell shows interest in what he's learning. I think Tyrell needs to be more confident in his abilities in order to truly do his best work. Tyrell has so much potential and I am excited for his second semester to see what he can accomplish.

Connor's Reflection:

This semester was an adventure for me, I really feel like I have grown at the very least in knowledge. This was by far the most I had learned in a very long time, I never felt like I learned a whole lot throughout a semester but this was amazing. I knew next to nothing about the middle east coming into this class, and now I know much more than I ever thought I would about Iraq and Iran. This would have to be what I am most proud of this semester, learning so many new things. It may not be actual work that I turned in but it makes me proud. I struggled with a lot of things this semester, most of it I think was just trying to keep up with due dates. I have always had trouble with motivation to do my work. I normally start out okay, but as soon as I miss one due date I then just start to fall behind. Most of the time it isn't the work that brings me down, when I miss assignments I really start to get disappointed with myself. I always seem to come back to this point even if I'm doing my work, I become disappointed that I didn't do the work or that I didn't work as hard as I could have. With this comes the lack of motivation, especially when I think that I produced mediocre work, I feel like there is no point to work on my assignments when they are just going to turn out mediocre. I never really try to do anything to get out of this feeling I keep to myself and just continue to fall behind in my work. I never really felt comfortable sharing this with people, I feel like I am pushing my problems on them. Even now I really don't feel like I should be sharing. What I could do is exactly this share this feeling with another person that can reassure me that doing the work is worth it. I think that once I overcome this obstacle I will truly be able to reach my full potential.

With this realization I feel that I have grown a lot during this semester. I believe that this was a milestone in my maturity. I am finally able to recognize the problems that I am having and work out ways to deal with them. This helps me build critical thinking skills, and helps me analyze difficult situations. This also puts me on the path to help me with my biggest problem, motivation. This is just as I said, a step I am nowhere near being able to completely eliminate the problem but within a few weeks I feel I can drastically reduce the problem. In conclusion this semester has been an interesting one. I feel like I have learned much more than I previously knew about everything that I studied. I, however, suffered from major motivation issues, never being able to finish my work all the way through. I was able to take a step on the path of overcoming this problem by maturing enough to recognize the problem. The problem being that I don't feel like I should be doing my work when I feel like everything I do will come out mediocre. I was able to devise, but not execute, a plan to help me overcome this. The plan was to talk to people about my work much more, maybe sharing the problems that I have

been having with them so I could get some help with it. So this semester had its ups and downs because of all of these revelations. When I look back at everything I did though I really feel like I had amazing fun this semester in Humanities and I can't wait until we start the next so that I can redeem myself.

<u>Teacher's Comments</u>:

Having met Connor last summer, I was so excited to find out that he was on my team. He's an incredibly bright, interesting, and curious young man. This was evident whenever we talked about history, philosophy, or economics. I love how engaged Connor is with what's going on in the world, and I valued his contributions to our discussions and simulations. Connor is as smart and as thoughtful as anyone on the team. His work, however, does not reflect these gifts as much as it should. In short, Connor is way too inconsistent. He often has good ideas, but he has trouble following through on them. Frankly, it's difficult for me to tell how much this is because Connor "gets in his head" and obsesses vs. how much he doesn't try in the first place. Either way, I want to have a renewed focus next semester on helping Connor help himself. He is just too awesome and talented to have his grades so low, and I look forward to collaborating with him and his family to see how we can make things right.

Student Teacher's Comments:

Connor is a fantastic young man who has so much to offer not only to our Humanities class, but to the world. He is a deep-thinker whose thoughtfulness I find incredibly fascinating. When Connor is involved in class, he is a wonderful addition. Connor just needs to work on making his participation consistent. He especially needs to determine an accommodating schedule in order to complete all of his work on time. He missed too many assignments this past semester. When Connor did follow through on an assignment, he did awesome, especially his response to literature. I hope that Connor can step up his time management skills and motivate himself to do his best work to make for a great second semester.

Taylor's Reflection:

Coming into 10th grade I was really happy because my best friend was going to be in my class, and my advisor was my teacher. After the first week of school my friend told me she was switching school. I felt completely alone after that. I knew I could make friends easily, but it was frightening being in a class and not knowing anybody. I always had a good feeling about 10th grade though, so I was ready to take on any challenge.

The first assignment of the semester was the character sketch. I always thought I was good at writing up until that point. I remember getting back my first draft and messy scribbles were all over. I was so mad and didn't want to read the corrections, thinking that they were all opinionative suggestions. I took the time to read it over, and realized that the corrections made so

much sense. For example, add more description was written all over my paper. I never realized how bland my writing was but I am glad I learned to add description. It is a crucial element that I think makes all papers much better.

My favorite paper that I wrote this semester is my persuasive essay on habeas corpus. I think I enjoyed writing this paper because it was interesting, and doing the debate between both classes helped. It was something I had a lot of evidence for, so I felt I persuaded the reader. I also really enjoyed writing my response to literature because I loved the book I was writing about. Like any piece of writing I kept switching my idea's until I finally realized to work backwards. I gathered all things in the book that intrigued me, and created a thesis off of the parts I found most interesting. This helped me organize my essay better.

One thing I think I've struggled with and still do is relating my evidence and commentary back to my thesis. I struggle with this a lot because I am so nit picky about my pieces of evidence and after hours of researching for the perfect piece, I give up and settle. Then I take the quote and give my interpretation on it which somehow gets irrelevant to what my main point was. I think an easy way to solve this is to re read my work before submitting to make sure everything relates to one another. This is also why I love peer critiques because something to me makes sense, and is relatable but my reader is confused. I am proud of my response to literature and think I did well on keeping everything relevant.

The project I absolutely hated and still do is the art and social movement project. In the beginning I didn't really like my topic but stuck with it because nothing else seemed interesting to me. A couple weeks later, when creating the brief for our social movement I began to get heavily interested and couldn't wait to start writing once I heard we were making a narrative. After looking at possible pictures that my partner and I could somehow relate to our social movement we found one that could possibly work. As we were planning it out, it sounded so cool and I was totally stoked about writing the piece. Then I started writing it and it wasn't flowing at all. I found myself throwing in random parts to make it relatable to my social movement and then got really lazy because I wasn't happy with it at all. After reading a couple of my peers' narratives, I became depressed about my piece and gave up and threw an ending on it. I didn't like the idea of my character reminiscing and me explaining her whole life from when she was a child, to when she was an adult. I feel like my topic isn't interesting enough to write a story on. My goal was to try and get the reader so connected to my character, and have something tragic happen to her towards the end so they could get emotional about it but sadly it isn't like that at all. We are still in the process of writing it, so I am going to make tons of changes before re submitting.

One thing I need to work on is letting my teenage emotions get the best of me. I throw fits and tantrums when I don't like the way a project is going, than I give up. It sucks too because I go into every school year saying I'm going to try my best and do my hardest, then towards the end of first semester I'm completely over school and homework. I am in a constant battle with myself. I chose sleeping over doing my homework, or rush through my homework so I can sleep. Sometimes I fall asleep while doing my homework, and wake up at 2a.m with a laptop on me. I'm a teenager, I am always going to be tired but thanks to my recent discovery, coffee I am now no longer falling asleep on my laptop.

If I learned anything about myself this semester it is that I do not want to be a journalist or an author. I've always loved writing but after reading peers papers, and theirs being so much better than mine, I decided writing it isn't for me. All my life I've wanted to major in criminal justice, and go to college in New York but as I'm getting older my ideas in what I want to do are changing. Lately I've been really into fashion, so I currently want to work for a magazine, working behind the runway. Hopefully my passion for writing sparks again soon.

I'm excited to see what next semester has in store for me. I heard The Glass Castle is really good and I'm looking forward to reading it and getting my mind blow away.

Teacher's Comments:

I enjoyed finally having Taylor in my Humanities class. Over the past two years, I have watched her grow more mature and responsible. I was excited to see her academic side. When she is at her best, Taylor is capable of all the things I knew I've love about her. She is kind and thoughtful, and she has strong, interesting opinions that she is willing to defend. This was clear in our discussions of and her presentation on Habeas Corpus. I know that Taylor is considering working in criminal justice, and this work showed why that might be a great fit. She has also improved her writing. At first, she struggled with organization (for her formal pieces) and detail (for her creative ones), but each has improved over time. I enjoyed her family history stories, for instance. They provided an interesting glimpse into Taylor's background. As a final positive note, I love how interested Taylor is in reading. I can't wait to see her continue this next semester. Despite these successes, Taylor still struggles with being consistent. She frustrates easily, and by the time she returns to her work, she has missed valuable time. She has made dramatic improvements since she arrived at our school, but I want for her to reach her full potential as an "A" student. She is on a good trajectory. I just want for it to be as steep as possible so that Taylor can achieve her dreams.

Student Teacher's Comments:

Taylor demonstrates how mature and reflective of a student she is in her written semester reflection. I enjoyed reading about how she viewed her semester and what she would like to work on. Taylor is a warm yet serious and hardworking student and was a pleasure to have in class. I agree with Taylor when she says that she needs to work on her time-management skills in order to get her schoolwork done at a reasonable hour. This will allow her to improve the quality of her work, especially with descriptive writing, as well as to continue to excel with analytical writing. Overall, Taylor is a well-respected student who, with the help of organizational and time-management skills, will shine next semester.

Maddie's Reflection:

This year seemed pretty scary to me. Last year I went to a different school and even though I knew a lot of High Tech High kids I was still terrified to start school. I liked Dan's class from the start with the Survivor Island project that helped me get to know my classmates. When we did our character sketches I got to learn a lot about the other kids in my class and what they are interested in. I also learned how to write a narrative in a different perspective than my own. I wrote my character sketch about my dog because she is hilarious and I thought it would be fun to write how she sees the world. I have never felt that I am that good at creative writing and I try to avoid it as much as possible. I can get an idea but halfway through I tend to not like it anymore and I never want to finish the stories I write. What was good for me this year is that I really improved my creative writing, and I also like doing it more. I have used creative writing in my character sketch, and my story about China's pollution. I am feeling a lot more confident with it.

This semester I have learned a lot and greatly improved my work. I have learned the importance of outlines while writing essays, and recently have been learning how to show two sides of a story. With the Art and Social Movement project we had to take an issue and represent both sides, or opinions about it. It is easy to make a one sided judgment, but you are more informed if you can understand both sides. My partner and I researched China's pollution and in our stories we try to demonstrate both sides of how the industrial revolution has affected China's citizens. Some people could argue that China's industry is terrible because the workers are underpaid and the pollution is destroying the world. But others could say that China's industry has helped many people out of unemployment in China and they are happy to work there. Also, it could be argued that the pollution is not their responsibility. Their job is to provide products for the best price. This also helps with persuasive writing, you can't argue a point if you only see one side. We have done a lot of persuasive essays this year and to argue something you have to understand it. It's not an argument if there isn't another side and you can't expect to persuade anyone if you don't address it.

I am most proud of my persuasive essays this year because I think they have improved a lot. I have very strong opinions so it is not hard for me to argue my side but I have trouble organizing

my thoughts into clear points and my essay turns into a rant. I feel like this year I have gotten better at organization in my essays and that has helped me greatly with my writing.

We have done a lot of projects this year that I have really enjoyed. I really like the seminars and discussions we have but I also really enjoyed the Supreme Court case we did about the rights to Habeas Corpus. I also enjoyed when we got characters we had to play and come up with a constitution. I feel that I learn best when I am with other people because we can collaborate our ideas and the outcome is better. I think that this is better than doing lectures and I have found that I learn a lot more. When you talk to other people you get other opinions and that is important.

Next semester I want to focus on organizing my work because I have lost some papers a few times this year, and being less stressed out. Sometimes if something doesn't come to me right away I freak out, but I always have something in the and I need to remember that. I am excited for the next semester and even though I feel I have come a long way I know there is always more to improve.

<u>Teacher's Comments</u>:

Maddie had an incredibly successful social and academic transition to High Tech High. From the beginning, Maddie has worked well with her classmates, from simulations to book clubs and beyond. I really appreciate how much energy and thought Maddie puts into everything. This sometimes manifests itself as nervous energy, but more often than not, it leads to exciting things. For example, I loved how intensely Maddie thought about the ethical issues related to the modern economy. She began with strong opinions, but she was willing to listen and reconsider her assumptions and her role in these issues. It is clear that Maddie is a caring and curious person. On a more academic level, I was happy to see how Maddie's writing improved over the semester. Each writing assignment was increasingly better as Maddie took on new habits and routines. She wasn't always perfect, though. She was distracted more often than I would like, for instance, and this led to her falling behind on assignments. While Maddie always followed through, I wonder how much better some of her work could be if she planned her timing a little better. Overall, I am very excited for next semester. I've really enjoyed getting to know Maddie, and if she can learn to channel her energy in the right direction (and to focus on one thing at a time!), there will be few limits to what she can accomplish.

Student Teacher's Comments:

I have enjoyed getting to know Maddie this past semester both in Humanities class and in Zumba X-block. Maddie is a passionate and strong-minded young woman who works hard. From the beginning to the end of first semester, Maddie produced quality work, and I appreciate Maddie's strong work ethic. I'd like to see Maddie approach her assignments with less worry and stress because, as she stated in her reflection, she always ends up doing a nice job. I'm excited for Maddie's second semester and for her to push herself even further.