

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:

- Enrich your ability to conduct interviews;
- 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. Identify an elder family or cultural community member to interview. Schedule an interview. Ask the questions provided.
2. 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.
3. 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 and structures
4. Reflect on why you chose to attend college and why you selected BMCC. Make a list of the reasons.
5. Reflect on why you enrolled in the infant-toddler specialization in BMCC's early childhood education program and why you want to work with infants-toddlers. Make a list of the reasons.
6. Reflect on what you hope to learn in ECE 209. Make a list of what you hope to learn from ECE 209.
7. Read Cheshire (2007) & Christie (2018) from ECE 209-Lecture. As you read, make lists of how infants are respected according to each author.
8. Compare how infants are respected in your family/cultural community (from your interview) to the authors' descriptions:
 - a. How are the practices the authors' described about respecting infants similar to practices of your family/cultural community?
 - b. How are the practices the authors' described about respecting infants different from of your family/cultural community?
9. Use the lists you created to construct paragraphs.
10. Cite your sources in APA format.
11. Proofread the paper.

12. The paper should contain the following parts:

Part 1: Introduce Yourself

- Identities
 - How do you identify yourself?
 - What are your identities?
 - Why are you in college? Why did you choose to attend BMCC?
- 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?

Part 2: Your Family/ Cultural Practices

- Who did you interview? When? Where?
- Why did you select this elder family/ cultural community member to interview? What experience does this person have caring for infants in your family/ cultural community?
- Describe how babies were respected in your family/culture using information from your interview. Give specific examples.
- From your interview, how did your family/ cultural community raise and care for infants?
 - From your interview, how did your family/cultural community support infant learning?
 - From your interview, what activities did your family/ cultural community do & engage in with babies?

Part 3: Respecting Infants

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

Part 4: Conclusion

- Why do you want to work with infants-toddlers?
- Why the infant-toddler specialization of BMCC’s Early Childhood Education Program?
- What do you hope to learn from ECE 209? What are your goals for ECE 209?

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
INTRODUCTION	Contain a detailed introduction of you, your identifies, who you are as a learner, & why you are in college at BMCC?	
FAMILY/CULTURAL PRACTICES	Describe who you interviewed & your family/ cultural community’s practices for working with infants?	
RESPECTING INFANTS	Include a clear, well-developed comparison of your family/cultural community’s practices of respecting infants to the practices identified by Cheshire (2007) and Christie (2017)?	
CONCLUSIONS	Clearly & thoughtfully explain why you want to work infant-toddlers, are in the infant-toddler specialization at BMCC, & your goals for ECE 209?	
CLARITY	Clear, organized, coherent, full of examples to expand the points you are making, proofread, & followed APA format?	

