

## **Reflective Essay Emotions/Shapes Series**

Your “reflective essay”—a piece of writing you complete at the end of the process—is an opportunity for you to look back on all of your hard work. Before you write a draft of your essay, collect all of your materials: Developmental Workbook journal entries, research notes, sketches, visual aids, and anything else that you’ve used and created to complete your project. Look over all of this information and begin to evaluate your learning experiences and your final, completed Emotions/Shapes pieces. This self-evaluation is important. You should be honest about the strengths and weaknesses of your finished projects, and you should determine how the project could have been improved.

### **Write your first draft.**

- Describe your Emotions/shapes. What were they exactly? What did you find out while working on these projects?
- Judge the overall quality of your work. Did your projects turn out the way you planned? Did you accomplish your goals? Did you follow your mental plan and thumbnails, or did your ideas change significantly as you worked? Did you do enough research?
- Describe how you might have made your projects better.
- How would you advise another student who has to complete this series? What would you do differently if you did the same projects again?
- How can you relate the development of your abilities to create the Emotions/Shapes series to the IBMYP Area of Interaction called Homo Faber/Human Ingenuity?

### **Go back and revise.**

- Be specific. When writing about “what happened,” describe your actions using vivid details. If you have interesting quotes from people who evaluated your work, use a few of them, or include dialogue from conversations you had.
- Make sure you stay focused. Don’t describe one interesting item for half of the essay. Focus on the Emotions/Shapes as a series and include important events that really shaped the final outcome of your projects.
- While keeping the focus on your projects, describe what happened

## DUE

---

to you. What did you learn? How did the actual experiences of researching, designing, creating, affect you as a person?

- What meaning do you think your projects will have to your audience? How do your projects teach those who didn't actually design and work on them?
- Pay attention to the clarity and style of your writing. Get your audience interested by writing a beginning that will catch their attention and an ending that they will remember. Keep in mind that your reflective essay will be rated not only on the content and whether you included all the required information, but also on the quality of your writing.
- Read your essay to a friend, a parent, or someone else you trust to give you helpful feedback. Ask where you need to revise it to make sure it is organized and strong.

•  
Revise! Rewrite until you're certain that your reflective essay really explains your thinking accurately, in an easy to understand manner. Revising always helps!