**E-Portfolio Reflection Assignments**Physics 199: Scientists at Work

STREAMS Summer Bridge 2011

General Comments:

In this series of assignments, you are asked to write reflectively about questions related to what you know, what you are learning, how you are learning it, and how you see your experiences in this program are impacting your growth as a scientist or mathematician. There are *no correct answers* here – only honest answers. Likewise, you are not trying to impress anyone with what you “already know” – or in a sense with how much you’ve learned. (Impressing people has nothing to do with it.)

The goal is to honestly reflect and collect your thoughts on a few important topics. The value of honest reflection is that it can be a guide to future decision making – dishonesty is self-defeating. Trying to write to the audience (impress your classmates or instructor) will serve no purpose to you. But good reflection will help you find strengths you didn’t know were there or weaknesses that you can begin to address in a more concrete way.

Grading of Reflections: (see rubric for details)

Your reflections will be graded according to a rubric (a set of guidelines) that emphasizes

1. that you followed the directions regarding topic and length
2. that your reflection represents clear writing (well organized, careful thought given to details included)
3. that your reflection clearly refers to evidence presented in your portfolio where appropriate
4. that your reflections are consistent with good grammar and spelling conventions

General Instructions:

For each question, you will be provided a prompt (or possibly a list of topics) and a length (approximate number of words). You can check the number of words in most word-processing programs by highlighting the selection, then checking “review” (in MS Word) for example. Where you see “[fill in]” in what follows, generally you replace this with you major / future career. Please either re-write the reflection prompt at the top of your reflection or work it into the first paragraph so it will be clear your audience what the reflection is about.

Your audience for these reflections is your peers in the class and the program mentors (your faculty research mentors, course instructors, etc.) These people will read some of your reflections, but maybe not all of them. This is not an application – you’re here, you’ve been accepted because we think you can be successful. So in your reflections you are not trying to impress your audience – you can, however, assume that your audience has undergone a number of very similar experiences – they’ve taken calculus before, been in a lab, lost their data and had to start over, etc.

**Reflections Assignment 1:**  Initial reflections at start of program

*Prior to the start of the Summer Bridge Program, please write initial reflections on these three topics. TREAT THESE AS THREE SEPARATE REFLECTIONS. If you have created an electronic portfolio, place them in a prominent “Reflections” file cabinet – otherwise, please write them and bring them with you to add to your e-portfolio when we arrive.*

*You will revisit these as the program goes on – as you learn more in the classes this summer, you will revise your reflections. You should proof-read your reflections for spelling and grammar before posting them, but you should not do background research or attempt to find out more about the topics. These reflections are about where you are right now, at the start of your career as a mathematician or scientist.*

1. What do I know about being a [fill in with your major, i.e. biologist]? What is [fill in] about? (Please write 200 to 400 words.)
2. Do I have any personal plans for my future as a [fill in]? (Please write 100 to 200 words.)
3. How do I hope the summer bridge will help me? (Please write 100 to 200 words.)

**Reflection hints / prompts**: If you are having trouble with these reflections, consider the following questions.

* What do they do?
* What experience have I had working or in school with this subject?
* Do I know anyone who works in this field personally?

Also, question 2 is a career aspiration reflection. Your answer could be no, and it is ok to say no. But then you should think about why you picked the field and reflect on that.

Question3 has strong overlap with what you wrote in your application. It may be fine to edit / revise that application and use that text here.

**Reflection Assignment 2:** Due Tuesday, July 5 at 6:00 p.m. to be posted with your other reflections

Write about 200 words towards the end of week one on the prompt below – include the FYS, Math Course and Research:

“What did I learn this week, and why did I learn it?”

Presumably you learned some content in your classes or how to do some research, but also you might have learned some other things that are a little broader. Be thinking about this question and don’t write down your first, immediate thought. It’s a good one to think about while showering, talking with your family, etc.

**Reflection Assignment 3:** Due Monday, July 11 before 6:00 p.m. to be posted with your other reflections.

Part 1: Re-read your reflection posting “What do I know about being a { }? What is { } all about?” Write at least 200 words on the questions below. Be absolutely sure to point to evidence in your research blog, your hot topic paper, or other program elements in your reflection. BE SPECIFIC in reflecting on what you have learned, as you will be graded on both the organization of your thoughts and the evidence you draw your reflections from.

“What do I now know about my chosen field? What evidence   
(class work, papers, lab work) demonstrates that I have learned anything?   
Has how I think about my field changed in a significant way?”

Part 2: Write 200 words on the question below. (Post this as a separate reflection.) Be as specific as you can be in your answer by giving names and circumstances of the advice giver (unless doing so would place the advice giver in an uncomfortable position).

“What advice have you heard during the first two weeks of the   
summer bridge program that you intend to follow this fall?”

**Reflection Assignment 4:** Due Friday, July 15 before 6:00 p.m. to be posted with your other reflections.

Re-read your reflection posting “How do I hope the summer bridge will help me?” from part 3 of the first reflection. Write at least 400 words on the questions below. Be absolutely sure to point to evidence in your research blog, your hot topic papers, or other program elements in your reflection. BE SPECIFIC in reflecting on what you have learned, as you will be graded on both the organization of your thoughts and the evidence you draw your reflections from.

“Were my goals for the summer bridge program the right goals for me?  
If not, what would have been better goals?  
Did I meet either my original goals or goals that developed as part of the program?”