

Lesson 11. Personal Inquiry Reflections

HAND OUT

Today you will be reflecting on your thinking over the past few days. Think about your “self” and “world” questions, our cultural conversations, your collage, your literature circle reading, our class discussions, and all of our lessons. What are you thinking about based on everything we’ve been discussing?

Activity 1: Explore a Mentor Text

First, let’s examine another student’s writing to gain ideas for how you might approach your own writing. Read Kendra’s blog reflection on inquiry. Highlight, underline, or put a star next to lines in her reflection that stand out to you as important to know or that show her carefully thinking and reflecting related to inquiry.

Can culture be both restricting and liberating? We have always said that culture is a way to connect and express ourselves with others, but are there restrictions from culture that may hinder you from being the best you can be? Does this mean that culture has both positives and negatives?

When culture is expressed by an individual, will it ever be the exact same as another’s culture? Moods, attitudes, and ideas might be different from those of others, so even though people may say that they have the exact same culture, don’t ideas and feelings change that? It makes me think that every single person has his or her own unique personal cultural identity.

Is our culture how we define ourselves? Culture is usually what makes up how we think of ourselves and others with attitudes, beliefs, and opinions, which affect our personalities and appearances. From this, I also believe that it’s impossible not to have a culture when it makes up who we are and how we think of others as well.

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- What do you appreciate about Kendra's reflection?
- What would you ask her about her ideas and inquiry?
- What might she explore for her inquiry research?

Activity 2: Review the Writing Guides on Youth Voices

- Navigate to YouthVoices.net and click on "Guides."
- First, review the guide for "Personal Inquiry": <http://youthvoices.net/personalinquiry>.
- Then, review the guide for "Speculating on an Inquiry": <http://youthvoices.net/speculating>.
- Choose one of these two guides as a template for forming your reflective blog post.

Activity 3: Write a Blog Post as a Class

As a class, write an example of a personal inquiry blog post.

Activity 4: Write Your Own Blog Post About Your Reflections Related to Inquiry

Individually, write your own personal inquiry reflection and post your first blog entry on Youth Voices!