

FINAL REFLECTION: **LETTER TO A FRIEND**

This assignment is your chance to reflect in a more focused way about your development as a student and a member of various campus communities at St. Olaf. To do this, you will write a letter to a close friend or relative (not a parent). In a letter of approximately 700 words, you will cover two main topics:

- 1) **Introduce your Feature and reflect on your learning during this course.** This class is not only about writing and composition but also about rhetoric, which means that its course content extends beyond the writing classroom and into any and all social situations. How does your feature display your awareness of rhetorical situations and your ability to respond intuitively and flexibly to different rhetorical situations? How have you noticed yourself attuned to our course topics and themes (related to rhetoric and/or to aesthetics) outside of the classroom?
- 2) **Reflect on your college experience.** How do you see your answers to question one informing your development as a community member on campus and beyond? What challenges have you encountered in college trying to form community and new relationships? How have you pushed yourself to get involved in co-curricular activities on campus and what impact have those activities had on you and your well-being? Looking ahead to next semester and beyond, what goals or plans do you have for getting more involved in community and campus life in ways that might improve your life and the lives of others around you?

This letter should answer these questions in the form of a normal letter. It should begin with a salutation of some kind (Dear *so and so*) and end with a farewell (Your Bestie, ██████). It should also address your friend in second person (you, your, yours), while speaking about yourself in first person (I, me, my, mine). You should address your friend in a way that feels natural and comfortable for you, but you should also retain a higher degree of thinking, clarity, and reflection than you might normally display while texting or catching up over the phone. Be yourself, but also take advantage of this assignment as an opportunity to think seriously and with a sense of purpose about questions that really matter.

While it is not a requirement for you to actually send your letter to your friend, I highly encourage you to do so.

Your letter will be double spaced, 12 pt professional font, and will be around 700 words. It will include a works cited page in MLA format (if relevant) for any sources cited in the letter.