

## **Directions for Revising the Reflective or Personal Informative Essay**

**Review all that we have discussed about good writing and effective revision:**

- ◆ **Creating a title that captures the reader's attention and suggests the focus of the essay:** Does your essay have an interesting and focused title?
- ◆ **Beginning with an introduction that hooks the reader** (a series of questions, an appropriate quotation, an arresting statement or interesting fact, an anecdote or a story, or a general discussion that eases the reader into the topic): What kind of *lead* or introduction does your essay have?
- ◆ **Writing a strong thesis that suggests the focus and order of the essay :**  
Can you locate the thesis of your essay?
- ◆ **Developing paragraphs with specific examples and details:**  
Have you included details that will make your essay come alive to the readers, that will help your readers see and understand your experience?
- ◆ **Using function paragraphs effectively** (to set off dialogue, to serve as a transition between main sections of the essay, to emphasize important points, etc.): Does your essay call for dialogue? Have you tried to emphasize an important point in a short paragraph while writing longer topic sentence paragraphs that thoroughly explain and exemplify the paragraphs' focus?
- ◆ **Avoiding repetition by varying sentences** (varying the length of the sentences, asking questions to re-engage the reader, or adding modifiers): Do your sentences vary in length and structure?
- ◆ **Using action verbs rather than relying on "to be" verbs :**  
Are most of the main verbs of your sentences *is, are, was, were, have, has, had*? Or do you use strong verbs that also help describe the circumstances and situations of your topic?
- ◆ **Making your writing more lively with metaphorical language or parallelism**
- ◆ **Establishing your own voice in your writing, a voice that reflects the purpose of the essay and your engagement in the writing .**

**Final Directions:**

In addition to revising the essay, you are to write one to two paragraphs that will be separate from yet serve as an introduction to your essay. In that writing, you should discuss the following:

- ◆ Your goals as a student at CTC (What brought you to CTC? What are your academic goals and hopes for the future?)
- ◆ How do you think your writing has changed over the course of the semester? How are those changes reflected in the essay you have revised?

Finally, locate on the Internet a web site or two that can be linked appropriately to your essay when the essay is published on my CTC web page. To see choices that other students have made, look at the student essays from last spring that are published on my CTC web page.

Include in your e-mail the URLs (web site addresses) of the web sites you would like to have linked to your essay. Briefly explain to me why you have chosen those web sites.