

ECF Sophomore Seminar Assignment: Reflecting on a Panel Discussion

Introduction & Motivation:

The first step in research is learning as much as you can from others. While we are not yet learning disciplinary information for our projects, we do want to learn from others about the *process* of research. As part of the class, you will hear from a panel of faculty members with experience mentoring undergraduate research. They will answer your questions about what it means to do research in their area of expertise, how they approach the mentoring relationship, and any other curiosities you have about the research process. You will then write a reflection to help you crystallize your thoughts into specific lessons learned about your own research vision and needs.

Genre: Reflection after discussion

Audience: Yourself, primarily, and other ECF sophomores secondarily

Purpose: To internalize and analyze information given by a panel, using it to make plans for your own research experience.

Length: .75 - 1 page, single spaced

Process:

1. Write a reflection on what you are taking away from the panel discussion. First, give lessons learned with references to specific points made in the discussion. Then, tell how the panel's insights relate to (back up, refute, deepen, or complete) the other lessons you have learned about the research process in the class thus far.

Assessment Criteria:

- Does the writing include reference to specifics of the discussion, without being a transcript?
- Does the writing include how the discussion relates to the other lessons learned in the course?
- Does the writing show that the author has thought deeply about their development as a researcher?
- Does the statement meet the length requirement and demonstrate polished prose?

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