

## Writing Assignment -- Sections 1 & 2 of PLA Essay 1

The process of writing your first PLA essay will be broken down into two parts. You will then combine the two parts into one whole PLA essay, so you will have a total of three weeks to work on it. You will receive feedback from me after you turn in each part, and I expect you to revise those parts before you turn in the complete, combined essay on July 23.

First, select a topic for this essay. Remember, it needs to be an experience that happened in your adult life, preferably one that took place some time ago. Often, we need time to process experiences and understand what we learned from them. Also, remember that the goal of this paper is to gain credits for college-level learning, so choose your topic well. If you are stuck, there are some sample topics on page 19 of the [PLA Student Guide](#).

In this first stage, focus on the first two sections of the Kolb model: Concrete Experiences and Observations and Reflections. These sections should be about two pages a piece; do not go overboard in your descriptions. Everything should be leading toward Section 3. Also, Section 2 is not simply a continuation of Section 1. Section 2 should **reflect** on the experiences described in Section 1, going deeper to the mental and emotional aspects of the situation.

After completing these first two sections, I want you to provide at least three possible learning outcomes that you will be exploring in next week's writing stage. You just need to write one sentence per learning outcome; you do not need to explore them further (that is next week's assignment). You are not committed to keeping these learning outcomes, but as you write the first two sections, I want you to be thinking about the learning you will focus on.

This half of your paper should be about 4-5 pages long, not including the title page -- the Concrete Experiences section should be about 2 pages long, the Observations and Reflections section should be about 2 pages long, and the list of potential learning outcomes should only be about a third of a page long.

Refer to the [PLA Student Guide](#), the [PLA Essay Template](#), and the [PLA Assessment Sheet](#) if you are uncertain about how to proceed with these particular sections.

**Purpose:** To explain the experience and the reflections/observations gleaned from that experience, along with forecasting what learning outcomes you will potentially explore.

**Audience:** Your professor, and eventually, a GFU faculty expert.

**Due date:** Sunday, July 9. This paper should be in APA format (font, margins, etc., with a clear title page). Make sure to use the section headings as indicated on the [PLA Essay Template](#).